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ISSUE 49 DEC 2011

26 AMAZING
FESTIVE
MAKES

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Knitty

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Contents

December 2011

PATTERNS

- 12 Sylvie**
Treat yourself to this luxurious top made of 100% silk
- 15 Lucy**
The Christmas cardy gets a makeover with our festive lacy number
- 20 El Dorado**
It's party season! Glam up with our golden cape
- 24 Hollie**
Debbie Abrahams' bag uses beads to great effect
- 28 Ruby and Rosa**
Snuggle up in our alpaca cowl and armwarmers
- 30 Comfort, Joy and Tidings**
These Norwegian-style baubles would make beautiful gifts
- 33 Tremendous**
Spruce up your tree with our fun and festive discs
- 39 Candy Cane**
Use modern colourways on a Christmas classic
- 40 Siena and Apollonia**
Two different yarns give this textured combo the wow factor
- 44 Vincent**
Make sure your man keeps cosy this winter
- 49 Cordial**
Sarah Hatton's chunky cardigan is knitted in luxury Rowan yarn
- 59 Dixon, Franklin and Hardy**
Your little one will look adorable in this Fair Isle scarf, hat and sweater set
- 62 Bouquet**
Self-striping yarn makes this girl's cardy bright and colourful

- 67 Pampers**
Bring a smile to your face with our slogan soakers
- 70 Matilda**
Make a last minute Christmas present for a little girl
- 76 Natasha**
A striking crocheted choker is perfect for fashionistas

SHOPPING

- 19 What's in Store?**
Find out about all the latest happenings in local yarn stores across the land
- 27 Baby, It's Cold Outside**
Stay warm with our cosy collection of treats
- 56 It Ain't Natural**
Check out our display of non-animal fibre yarns
- 81 Colour Therapy**
We've gone all posh with royal blue yarns and luxury accessories

FOCUS

- 36 Stocking Up for Christmas**
Adnerne Chandler learns all about this traditional Christmas item
- 43 The Bookshelf**
We review this month's best books, blogs and more
- 46 Diary of a Christmas Knitter Part 2**
LK columnist Claire Thomas' Christmas preparations come to a conclusion

15



33

Who cares? We do!

At Let's Knit we understand that nothing is more annoying than errors in knitting patterns. As part of our total commitment to ensuring that your experience of our magazine is as enjoyable as possible, we're proud to offer THE LET'S KNIT PATTERN PROMISE:

- Exclusive patterns featured in Let's Knit have been professionally checked and reproduced with the utmost care. Updates can be found at www.letsknit.co.uk
- Should you encounter any problems we are more than

happy to provide support and assistance. Contact us and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible. By email: support@letsknit.co.uk By telephone: 01206 506622 (office hours only) By post at the address on page 3 (please mark your envelope 'support') (Please note we cannot offer assistance with patterns not published in Let's Knit)

December patterns



72 Toy Story Part 2

Val Pierce shows you how to complete your toy in style

74 Look After You

Knitting may be a gentle hobby but it can take its toll on your body. Check out these helpful products

PEOPLE

8 Inspiration Station

Read all about the new hexpuffing craze and win a fantastic prize!

52 Tea Break

Find readers' letters here, plus read columnist Claire Thomas' special announcement.

98 Unravelling

Designer Jo Storie tells us all about her new knitting patterns

IN EVERY ISSUE...

3 Welcome

7 This Month We Love

79 Giveaways

82 Subscriptions

85 Ask Kitty

86-90 Essential Information

91 Coming Next Month



12 Sylvie



15 Lucy



20 El Dorado



24 Hollie



28 Ruby



28 Rosa



30 Joy



30 Comfort



30 Tidings



33 Tremendous



39 Candy Cane



40 Apollonia



40 Siena



44 Vincent



49 Cordial



59 Dixon



59 Franklin



59 Hardy



62 Bouquet



67 Pampers



70 Matilda



76 Natasha

This month's free gifts:

Two balls of chunky yarn + The Little Book of Winter Warmers



**SUBSCRIBE TO LET'S KNIT -
CALL 0844 844 0947 OR
VISIT WWW.LETSKNIT.CO.UK**



Inspiration station

Our round-up of what's hot in the knitting universe

Graceful lace

Rowan Fine Lace is a new yarn made of 80% baby alpaca and 20% fine merino. Available in a subtle range of ten chalky shades, it is perfect for delicate items like this stunning Bressay Hap wrap by Sharon Miller. Buy the yarn for £7.50 per 50g (400m) ball from Deramores, **0845 519 4573**,

www.deramores.com: download the wrap pattern for free from Rowan's website, www.knitrowan.com



The art of giving

Nothing warms the heart more than a handmade gift. Debbie Bliss' new book *Knits to Give* (£18.99, Quadrille) contains 30 patterns for beautiful presents, with special sections for women, men, kids and the home. We love this simple yet stylish cabled belt. Buy a copy from Cafe Knit. **01787 249865**, www.cafeknit.com



♥ LK LOVES...

Fyberspates Gloucester Tweed 4ply

This gorgeous new yarn is made of 85% merino and 15% nylon and can be machine washed. We love this array of teal shades. A 100g (400m) skein costs £14 from Fyberspates, **07540 656660**, www.fyberspates.co.uk





Winter warmers

If you've enjoyed using this month's free gift of chunky yarn you'll love the current issue of our sister magazine Let's Get Crafting. A winter warmer special, it comes with a kit containing eight balls of chunky yarn, a double-ended crochet hook and more, plus lots of gorgeous knitting and crochet patterns to try. It's on sale until 23rd December, visit www.letsgetcrafting.com for more information.

Charity of the month

The Seaman's Church Institute

Many mariners spend the festive season at sea, away from their families and loved ones. America-based charity The Seaman's Church Institute has been providing more than 17,000 seafarers of all nationalities with knitted hats, scarves and socks for over 100 years as part of their Christmas at Sea programme and they need your help. Download free patterns from www.seamenschurch.org and send completed items to The Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea Program, 118 Export St, Port Newark, NJ, 07114, USA



5 reasons to join us online



1) Winning move

All our giveaways are free to enter at our website (www.letsknit.co.uk), plus we often set knitty challenges with great prizes!

2) Get involved

Want to star in a future issue of LK? We love to include the views of our virtual friends in the mag.

3) Options, options

If you love Twitter, you can find us there (@LetsKnitMag). If you favour Facebook, come and Like us at www.facebook.com/letsknitmag

4) Treasure trove

The Let's Knit website has a myriad of resources waiting to be discovered, including free patterns, tutorials and a map of our LK Local knitting groups.

5) Find friends

There's loads of like-minded people waiting to meet you on our friendly forum. If you get stuck on a pattern there are loads of experienced knitters who can lend you a hand.



Did you know?

Online knitting shop Cucumberpatch has a new helpful search facility on their website, visit www.cucumberpatch.co.uk to try it out!

Everyone's talking about... hexipuffing!

American designer Stephanie Dosen's Beekeeper's Quilt pattern has been taking the online knitting world by storm over the last couple of months. It is made of little stuffed honeycomb-shaped pockets that have lovingly been named hexipuffs. Each one is knitted in the round and is the perfect way to use up scraps of sock yarn, plus it's really addictive! Buy the pattern for \$5.50 (approx £3.50) from Tiny Owl Knits, www.tinyowlknits.com or visit our website to win a copy of the pattern as well as these fabulous accompanying products!



Need somewhere to store your hexipuffs? Try this cute drawstring Hexi-Bag from Nic's Knots that has a hexagonal base. It costs £13 from www.nicksknots.co.uk

Win all these! Enter at www.letsknit.co.uk

This Mini Skein Grab Bag is perfect for hexipuffing and contains ten 10g skeins of 4ply yarn that have been hand-dyed by indie dyer Dye Spin Knit. It costs £12 from www.theyarncafe.com

Brittany double-pointed knitting needles are made from sustainable birch hardwood and come with a five year guarantee. We have a 3.5mm set to give away. Find your nearest stockist by calling 0118 950 3350 or visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk

Fancy footwear

Knitting has hit the high street again this season and we like these Desert Boots from Clarks. The shoe shop has teamed up with Scottish luxury brand Thistle & Broom to produce just over 1000 of these special limited edition boots. Each handmade spat is made by a group of Scottish knitters who have more than 1200 years of knitting experience between them!

A pair costs £149, call 0844 499 5544 or visit www.clarks.co.uk

Handknits meet high street fashion

Time for tea

Got a creative idea for a tea cosy? Have a go at entering the World Tea Cosy Competition! Hosted in Queensland, Australia, there are cash prizes up for grabs and entry is free. Simply choose one of the following four categories and download an entry form from www.milesrac.org

- Knitting and/or crochet
- Embroidery
- Novelty
- Colour-themed (pink for Breast Cancer or red for the Heart Foundation)

Send your labelled entry to Mrs Ann Gibbons, Mirrabook, Miles, 4415, Queensland, Australia by 30th June 2012.



Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Bergere de France Origin Sole is a sleek yarn made of 100% silk. Choose from eight colours, including bright red and pink or calmer oyster and blue shades. It can be machine washed on a cool temperature.

Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx):

8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22)

To fit bust (cm):

81 (86, 92, 97, 102, 107, 112, 117)

Actual bust (cm):

91 (96, 101, 106, 111, 116, 121, 126)

Length to shoulder (cm):

50 (51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Bergere de France Origin Sole, shade 243.44 Bijou, 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 9) 50g balls
Needles: 3.25mm, 3.75mm
Stitch holder

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

3.75mm needles

stocking stitch

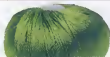


Need an alternative yarn?

Sublime Tussah Silk DK is made of 50% silk and 50% viscose and knits up into a soft textured fabric with a subtle sheen and excellent drape. It is machine washable and comes in eight colourways, including silvery shade 265 Moire.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Let's Knit! Shop!



Bergere de France Origin Sole costs
£9.09 per 50g (115m) ball from
Crafty Yarn, 01793 855535,
www.crafty-yarn.co.uk



Sublime Tussah Silk DK
costs £4.50 per 50g (100m)
ball from The Black Sheep,
01925 764231,
www.blacksheepwools.com

Sylvie

Our glam top by **Sian Brown**
is made of 100% silk

Once you've slipped Sian Brown's simple Sylvie top on, we guarantee you won't want to take it off! The silk yarn is gorgeously smooth next to your skin and has a beautiful sheen and drape. Knitted in simple stocking stitch with minimal shaping, it's perfect for anyone looking to knit their first garment. The look is finished off with twisted cord bows around the shoulders, see our Knit wise panel for more information.

START HERE

Back

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 112 (118, 124, 130, 136, 142, 148, 154) sts

- ☐ K five rows
- ☐ Change to 3.75mm needles
- ☐ Beg with a k row work two rows in st st
- ☐ Next row (dec, RS): k6,

exclusive
TO LET'S KNIT

skpo, k to last eight sts, k2tog, k6

- ☐ Work five rows in st st
- ☐ Rep last six rows five times more then dec row again 98 (104, 110, 116, 122, 128, 134, 140) sts
- ☐ Work five rows in st st
- ☐ Next row (inc): k6, m1, k to last six sts, m1, k6
- ☐ Rep last six rows six times more. 112 (118, 124, 130, 136, 142, 148, 154) sts
- ☐ Work without shaping until Back meas 32 (33, 33, 34, 34, 35, 35, 36) cm from cast on edge ending with a p row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

- ☐ Cast off 6 (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) sts at beg of next two rows 100 (104, 108, 112, 116, 120, 124, 128) sts
- ☐ Next row: k2, skpo, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2



SKPO DEMO
check out the video at
WWW.LETSKNIT.CO.UK

Knit WISE

Twisted cord

To make the rope-like cords tied around the shoulder seams of this garment, take two strands of yarn 200cm long and knot together at each end. Securing one end, put a needle through the other end, just before the knot and turn it around and around until the cord is twisted so tightly it begins to kink. Take the needle out, holding the cord firmly, and bring the knotted ends together. The cord will twist in on itself. Pull firmly on both ends to smooth out any kinks then knot the knotted ends together. The cords in the photograph measure approximately 48cm each.



- Next row, p to end
- Rep last two rows eight times more 82 (86, 90, 94, 98, 102, 106, 110) sts **
- Cont without shaping for 32 (32, 34, 34, 38, 38, 40, 40) rows
- Change to 3.25mm needles
- K three rows

SHOULDERS

- K8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) sts, leave sts on a holder, cast off next 66 (68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80) sts. k to end, leave these 8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) sts on a holder

Front

- Work as given for Back to **

FRONT NECK SHAPING

- Next row (inc): k8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15), m1, k to last 8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) sts, m1, k8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)
- P one row
- Rep last two rows 11 (11, 12, 12, 14, 14, 15, 15) times more and then inc row again, 108 (112, 118, 122, 130, 134, 140, 144) sts
- Starting with a p row work seven rows in st st
- Change to 3.25mm needles
- K three rows

SHOULDERS

- K8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

- sts, leave these sts on a holder, cast off next 92 (94, 98, 100, 106, 108, 112, 114) sts. k to end, leave these 8 (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) sts on a holder

ARMBANDS

- Join shoulders by placing RS tog and k one st from front and back tog and casting them off
- With RS facing using 3.25mm needles pick up and k 92 (94, 98, 100, 106, 108, 114, 116) sts evenly round armhole edge
- K two rows
- Cast off

To make up

- Join side and armband seams. Make two twisted cords (see Knit wise panel). Tie in a bow around shoulder seam **LK**

Skirt from a selection at Oasis, Necklaces, £12.99, Hood by Jon Richard



Gorgeous
silky yarn

LK SAYS...



"This yarn drapes really beautifully and Sylvie is designed to have extra drape at the front for a simple, feminine look"

LK DESIGNER SIAN BROWN

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Debbie Bliss Prima blends 80% bamboo-sourced viscose and 20% merino which is a great all-season combo. This yarn can be machine washed and there are 24 colourways available.

Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx):		
8-10	12-14	16-18
To fit chest (cm):		
86	(97,	107,
Actual chest (cm):		
89.5	(100,	110,
Length from shoulder (cm):		
55	(56,	57.5,
		58.5)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Debbie Bliss Prima, shade 06 Red, 10 (11, 13, 14) 50g balls

Needles: 4mm

Buttons: three small

Stitch holder

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

in pattern

4mm needles



Need an alternative yarn?

Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo comprises the same ratio of bamboo and wool so has the same pretty sheen. Choose shade 126 to match the colour used here, or pick from 25 other alternatives.

Special abbreviations

w&t: wrap and turn - bring yarn to opposite side of work between needles, slip next st on to RH needle, take yarn back to other side of work, return slipped st to LH needle, turn

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Knit! Shop!



Debbie Bliss Prima costs £4.50 per 50g (106m) ball from Laughing Hens, 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo costs £3.29 per 50g (95m) ball from The Black Sheep, 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com



Lucy

Bright red and beautiful, **Anniken Allis'** lacy cardigan is fabulously festive

Who says that lacy knits are just for the summer? We say they can be worn all year round and Anniken Allis' Lucy cardy is a prime example. Bamboo blend yarns, like the one used here, have a lovely sheen and when knitted give excellent drape and stitch definition which really highlights lacy patterns. Lace garments are a great choice for those occasions when you want to look smart but feel casual, and you always need a cover-up at winter soirées and events. We've picked a really festive shade but you could easily choose something more neutral or a colour that matches your favourite outfit.

Lovely lacy knit!



START KNITTING ON P16

START HERE

Lace pattern

(written instructions for Chart)

- Row 1 (RS): yfwd, k2, ssk, k5
- Row 2 and all WS rows: p to end
- Row 3: k1, yfwd, k2, ssk, k4
- Row 5: k2, yfwd, k2, ssk, k3
- Row 7: k5, k2tog, k2, yfwd
- Row 9: k4, k2tog, k2, yfwd, k1
- Row 11, k3, k2tog, k2, yfwd, k2

Back

Using 4mm needles cast on 94 (105, 116, 128) sts

- Work four rows in garter st. Set patt as folls:
- Next row (RS): k2 (3, 4, 1), work Row 1 of Chart or written instructions 10 (11, 12, 14) times, k2 (3, 4, 1)
- Next row (WS): p to end
- Cont as set working appropriate row of Chart or pattern until Back meas 39 (39, 38.5, 38.5) cm ending with a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

- Cast off 4 (5, 6, 8) sts at beg of next two rows. 86

- (95, 104, 112) sts
- Next row (RS): k2, ssk, patt to last four sts, k2tog, k2
- Next row (WS): p2, p2tog, patt to last four sts, p2tog tbl, p2
- Rep last two rows 1 (2, 3, 4) more times. 78 (83, 88, 92) sts
- Cont in patt working decs on RS row only 3 (3, 2, 2) more times. 72 (77, 84, 88) sts
- Cont without shaping until Back meas 53 (54, 55.5, 56.5) cm ending with a WS row

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

- Next row: patt 21 (23, 25, 27) sts, turn, place centre 30 (31, 34, 34) sts on holder
- Next row (WS): p1, p2tog, p to end
- Next row (RS): patt to last three sts, k2tog, k1
- Rep last two rows once more. 17 (19, 21, 23) sts

SHAPE RIGHT SHOULDER

- Next row (WS): p12 (12, 14, 16), w&t
- Next row (RS): patt to end
- Next row: p6 (6, 7, 8), w&t
- Next row: patt to end
- Next row: p to end working wraps tog with st. Place all sts on a holder

SHAPE LEFT NECK

- Re-attach yarn at neck edge
- Patt to end of row. 21 (23, 25, 27) sts
- Next row (WS): p to last three sts, p2tog tbl, p1
- Next row (RS): k1, ssk, patt to end
- Rep last two rows once more. 17 (19, 21, 23) sts

SHAPE LEFT SHOULDER

- Next row (WS): p to end
- Next row (RS): patt 12 (12, 14, 16) sts, w&t
- Next row: p to end
- Next row: patt 6 (6, 7,

- 8), w&t
- Next row: p to end
- Next row: patt to end working wraps tog with st. Place all sts on a holder

Left front

- Using 4mm needles cast on 49 (53, 58, 65) sts
- Work four rows in garter st
- Next row (RS): k2 (4, 2, 1), work Row 1 of Chart 5 (5, 6, 7) times, k2 (4, 2, 1)
- Next row (WS): p to end
- Cont as set working correct patt or Chart rows until Left front matches Back to armhole shaping ending with a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLE

- Next row: cast off 4 (5, 6, 8) sts at beg of row, patt to end. 45 (48, 52, 57) sts
- Next row: p to end
- Next row: k2, ssk, patt to end
- Next row: p to last four sts, p2tog tbl, p2
- Rep last two rows 1 (2, 3, 4) more times. 41 (42, 44, 47) sts
- Dec as set on RS row only 3 (3, 2, 2) more times. 38 (39, 42, 45) sts
- Cont without shaping until Front meas 45 (45, 45.5, 45.5) cm ending with a WS row

SHAPE NECK

- Next row: patt to last five sts, k2tog, k1, turn
- Leave last two sts on holder
- Next row: p1, p2tog, p to end
- Next row: patt to last three sts, k2tog, k1
- Rep last two rows until 17 (19, 21, 23) sts rem
- Cont without shaping until Left front matches Back to shoulder shaping, ending with a RS row

LK SAYS...



LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT ELAINE BENNETT

"Everyone should have a vibrant red cardigan or sweater in their wardrobe for an instant splash of Christmas cheer!"



NOTE: chart only shows RS rows. All WS rows, p to end

SHAPE SHOULDER

- Next row (W5): p12 (12, 14, 16), w&t
- Next row (R5): patt to end
- Next row: p6 (6, 7, 8), w&t
- Next row: patt to end
- Next row: p to end
- working wraps tog with st
- Place all sts on a holder

Right front

- Using 4mm needles cast on 49 (53, 58, 65) sts
- Work four rows in garter st
- Next row (R5): k2 (4, 2, 1), work Row 1 of Chart 5 (5, 6, 7) times, k2 (4, 2, 1)
- Next row (W5): p to end
- Cont as set working correct patt or Chart rows until Right front matches
- Back to armhole shaping ending with a R5 row

SHAPE ARMHOLE

- Next row: cast off 4 (5, 6, 8) sts at beg of row. 45 (48, 52, 57) sts
- Next row (R5): patt to last four sts, k2tog, k2
- Next row (W5): p2, p2tog, p to end
- Rep last two rows 1 (2, 3, 4) more times. 41 (42, 44, 47) sts
- Dec on R5 row only 3 (3, 2, 2) more times. 38 (39, 42, 45) sts
- Cont without shaping until Right front matches Left front to neck shaping ending with a W5 row

SHAPE NECK

- Next row: k2, place these two sts on a holder; k1, ssk, patt to end
- Next row (W5): p to last three sts, p2tog tbl, p1
- Next row (R5): k1, ssk, patt to end
- Rep last two rows until 17 (19, 21, 23) sts rem
- Cont without shaping until Right front matches Left front to shoulder shaping ending with a W5 row

SHAPE SHOULDER

- Next row (R5): patt 12 (12, 14, 16), w&t
- Next row (W5): p to end
- Next row: patt 6 (6, 7, 8), w&t
- Next row: p to end
- Next row: patt to end
- working wraps tog with st
- Place all sts on a holder

Sleeves

Using 4mm needles cast on

58 (67, 76, 76) sts

- Work four rows in garter st
- Next row (R5): k2 (2, 2, 2), work Row 1 of Chart 6 (7, 8, 8) times, k2 (2, 2, 2)
- Next row (W5): p to end
- Work ten rows working correct patt or Chart row
- Inc one st at each end of next and every foll sixth row 5 (3, 2, 5) times. 68 (73, 80, 86) sts
- Cont without shaping until sleeve meas 25 (25.5, 26.5, 26.5) cm ending with a W5 row

SHAPE SLEEVE CAP

- Cast off 4 (5, 6, 8) sts at beg of next two rows. 60 (63, 68, 70) sts
- Dec one st at each end of next and every alt row 10 (8, 9, 13) times in all. 40 (47, 50, 44) sts
- Dec one st at each end of every row 11 (14, 14, 9) times. 18 (19, 22, 26) sts
- Cast off 3 (3, 4, 4) sts at beg of next two rows. 12 (13, 14, 18) sts
- Cast off 3 (3, 3, 4) sts at beg of next two rows. 6 (7, 8, 10) sts
- Cast off rem sts

To make up

Steam press pieces. Join shoulder stitches by working three needle cast off (see Knit wise) on the WS. Set in sleeves and sew underarm and side seams. Weave in loose ends

Neckband

- Slip two sts on Right front holder onto needle
- Rejoin yarn at inner neck, pick up and k 29 (30, 32, 33) sts between Right front and Right shoulder, 7 (7, 7, 7) sts between Right shoulder and Back neck, k30 (31, 34, 34) from Back neck holder, pick up and k 7 (7, 7, 7) sts between Back neck and Left shoulder, 29 (30, 32, 33) sts between Left shoulder and Front neck, k2 from holder. 106 (109, 116, 118) sts
- K three rows
- Cast off

Right front edging

Rejoin yarn at hem with RS facing



Necklace, model's own; Dress, £40, Debenhams

LK SAYS...

"This gorgeous, lacy cardigan is perfect to wear with a variety of outfits and will take you through several seasons"

LK DESIGNER ANNIEKEN ALLIS



KEEPKNITTING ON P18

- Row 1: pick up and k 94 (94, 96, 96) sts
- Row 2: k2, cast off two sts (one st on RH needle), (k6, cast off two sts (one st on RH needle)) twice, k to end
- Row 3: k to first cast off st, * turn, cast on two sts, turn, k to next cast off st, rep from * until all cast off sts have been worked, k to end
- Row 4: k to end
- Cast off

Left front edging

Rejoin yarn at top edge with RS facing

- Row 1: pick up and k 94 (94, 96, 96) sts
- K three rows
- Cast off

Sew buttons onto Left front to correspond with buttonholes. Weave in remaining ends **LK**



KnitWISE

Three needle cast off

The three-needle cast off is an easy way of joining the shoulders of a garment and gives a crisp, neat finish. Place two sets of the stitches to be joined onto each needle, then hold the needles parallel with the RS together. Using a third needle as your RH needle, insert it through the back loop of the first stitch on the front needle and through the front loop of the first stitch on the back needle. Knit these two stitches together. Repeat this in the second stitch, then pass the first worked st on the RH needle over the second and off the end of the needle, casting off as normal. Repeat this until all stitches have been cast off.



Interchangeable Circular Knitting Needles “Takumi Combo” Set



Art No. 3683



Precision finish of the joint connection between needle and cord ensure a smooth slide for each stitch with Takumi knitting needles.

■ Content of the Set

3.25 in./8.5 mm/3.75 mm/4.5 mm/
4.5 mm/5.0 mm/5.5 mm/6.0 mm/
6.5 mm/8.0 mm/9.0 mm/10.0 mm
Total : 11 sizes



41 cm/01 cm/7'4 cm/
91 cm/120 cm
Total : 5 sizes



60
Combinations

Combo includes 5 cords and 12 tip sizes, creating 60 combinations and stored in an exclusive luxury case.

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Sirdar Softspun DK is a brand new yarn for this winter and follows the trend for lustrous and shimmery yarns. It is made up of 51% nylon, 25% wool and 24% acrylic which gives it a light and airy feel, whilst also being warm and cosy.

Measurements & Sizes

Dress size (approx): 8-14 (14-20)
Width (cm): 92 (102.5)
Length from shoulder (cm):
66 (67)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Sirdar Softspun, shade 556, 12 (14) x 25g balls

Needles: 4.5mm

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

over patt

4.5mm needles



Need an alternative

The featured yarn has an unusual airiness to it which makes it hard to substitute.

However, alpaca yarns are very light to wear, which would be ideal for a large garment such as this. Artesano Alpaca DK comes in a wide variety of shades so there's bound to be one that catches your eye. Remember that 100% natural animal fibres like this should generally be handwashed.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Knit! Shop!



Sirdar Softspun costs £2.25 per 25g (125m) ball from Fingers and Thumbs, 07801 893309, www.fingers-and-thumbs.com

Artesano Alpaca DK costs £3.99 per 50g (100m) ball from Cafe Knit, 07967 997414, www.cafeknit.com



El Dorado

Capes are really popular right now and **Pat Menchini** is going for gold with this beautiful lacy design

Woohoo, it's party season! It's great fun to get glammed up and the Christmas and New Year festivities are the perfect opportunity to don your glad rags – why not finish the outfit with a gorgeous cape? This lacy cover-up is knitted in new Sirdar Softspun which has a subtle lustre, making it ideal for special occasions. It is easy to knit as it is made up of four simple rectangles with no extra shaping, and the DK weight yarn means it is well suited to first time lace knitters.



START HERE

exclusive
TO LET'S KNIT!

Cape panels

(make four)

Using 4.5mm needle and
Wool 101 (113) sts

□ K one row

Work in lace patt as foll:

□ Row 1 (RS) k3, [k2tog, yfwd, k1, yfwd, skpo, k1] to last two sts, k2

□ Row 2: k2, p to last two sts, k2

□ Rows 3-8 rep Rows 1 and 2 three times

□ Row 9: k2, k2tog, [yfwd, k3, yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, psso] to last seven sts, yfwd, k3, yfwd, skpo, k2

□ Row 10: k2, p to last two sts, k2

□ Row 11: k3, [yfwd, skpo, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1] to last two sts, k2

□ Row 12: as Row 10

□ Row 13: k4, [yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, psso, yfwd, k3] to last st, k1

□ Row 14: k2, p to last two sts, k2

These 14 rows form patt

□ Cont in patt until work meas 66 (67) cm, ending after a RS row

□ Loosely cast off twice

Great for
Christmas parties

KEEP KNITTING ON P22

Knit WISE

Left and right
slanting decreases

The lace pattern in El Dorado features both k2tog and skpo decreases. The reason for using both techniques is that they each slant a different way and these shapes are incorporated into the lace motif. When you work a k2tog, the finished stitch leans to the right whilst a skpo will lean to the left.

LK SAYS...



"This lightweight, up-to-the-minute poncho is great for adding an extra layer on cooler days and is very easy to knit and sew up"

LK DESIGNER PAT MENCHINI

Simple four-panel knit

Eyelets and slanting decreases
create a stylish pattern



To make up
one cast on 100g of
150 panels, and do the
same on other two panels
to form two long
rectangles. These are
shoulder seams. Lay two
rectangles side-by-side
and join edges down
centre of cape, stopping
approx 42 rows down
from each shoulder seam
for neck opening. Weave
in ends **LK**

Skpo



1 Slip one stitch knitwise on to the right hand
needle, then knit the following stitch.



2 With the tip of the left hand needle, pick up the
loop of the stitch that has been slipped and
bring it over the stitch that has just been knitted and
off the needle.

Blouse £14.99, TK Maxx,
Trousers, £24.99, New
Look. Jewellery from a
selection at Debenhams

LK SAYS...



*"Shimmery, lustrous
yarns are really popular
this winter and this one
is light, lofty and perfect
for a glam cover-up"*

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Rowan Siena 4ply is a mercerised cotton yarn with a pretty sheen that comes in a range of more than 20 shades.

Measurements & Sizes

Base diameter: approx 9.5cm

Height: approx 20cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Siena 4ply, (A) shade 670 Sile, (B) shade 667 Shadow, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 2.5mm, 3mm

Beads: Debbie Abrahams Beads, size 8/0, shade 34 Clear, shade 49 Green, one pack of each, size 6/0, shade 41 Amethyst, two packs

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

3mm needles

stocking stitch



Special abbreviations

plb: place bead

On RS: slide bead up yarn, bring yarn with bead forward between needles, sl next st pwise, take yarn back between needles leaving bead at front of work, make sure bead is sitting neatly in front of st as you work next st

On WS: slide bead up yarn, take yarn with bead back between needles, sl next st pwise, take yarn forward between needles leaving bead at back of work, make sure bead is sitting neatly at back of st as you work next st

pfb: p into front and back of st

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Knit! Shop!

Rowan Siena 4ply costs £4.95 per 50g (140m) ball from Laughing Hens, 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

Wendy Peter Pan 4ply costs £3.49 per 100g (412m) ball from Purplelinda Crafts, www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Debbie Abrahams Beads, pack of size 6/0 costs £3.20, pack of size 8/0 costs £2, both from Debbie Abrahams Beads, 0115 855 1799, www.debbieabrahamsbeads.co.uk

Hollie

Our beaded bag by **Debbie Abrahams** is great for the festive season

It's the small details on our Hollie bag by Debbie Abrahams that make it so appealing. It features a pretty picot edge, sparkly drawstring tie and a beautiful beaded diamond pattern and would make a stunning Christmas gift bag. Alternatively, it's the perfect size for popping your makeup and other essentials in.

START HERE

Top edging

Thread beads onto yarn A in foll sequence, noting these abbreviations: C = Clear, G = Green, A = Amethyst * 50C, (2G, 1A, 1G) ten times (1G, 2A, 1G) ten times, (1G, 1A, 1C, 1A) ten times, (1A, 2C, 1A) ten times, (1A, 1G, 1A) ten times, (1A, 2C, 1A) ten times, (1G, 1A, 1C, 1A) ten times, (1G, 2A, 1G) ten times, (2G, 1A, 1G) ten times *, 49C Using 2.5mm needles and

Use beads in your knitting



eXclusive
TO LET'S KNIT!

Knit WISE

Thumb method cast on

This method of casting on creates a neat, elastic edge. Make a slip knot on the needle approximately one metre from the end of the yarn. This length must be sufficient to make all the cast-on stitches. Hold the ball end of the yarn and the needle in your right hand. Hold the other end of the yarn in the palm of your left hand. Move your left thumb behind and under the yarn so that the yarn is wrapped from front to back around it. Insert the needle tip into this loop. Wrap the yarn in your right hand under and around the tip of the needle. Bring the needle and yarn wrapped around it through the loop around your thumb and towards you, making another stitch. Slip your thumb out of the loop and pull the two ends of yarn away from the needle in opposite directions. One stitch is now cast on.

- yarn A cast on 199 sts
Use yarn A throughout unless otherwise stated
- Row 1 (picot edge, RS): k3, (cast off three sts, k until there are three sts on RH needle after cast off sts) 32 times, cast off three sts leaving one st on RH needle after cast off sts. 100 sts
 - Row 2 (WS): k
 - Rows 3-5: k
 - Row 6: p
 - Row 7: k2, (pb, k1) to end of row
 - Rows 8-12: k
 - Row 13 (eyelet row): k4, [k2tog tbl, (yfwd) twice, k2tog, K4] 11 times, k2tog tbl, (yfwd) twice, k2tog, k4
 - Row 14: ptbl to end

Bag

Change to 3mm needles

- Rows 15-17: starting with a k row work in st st
- Row 18 (inc): p33, pfb, p32, pfb, p33. 102 sts
- *** Row 19: with RS facing

KEEP KNITTING ON P26

Dress, £39.99, TK Maxx;
Jewellery from a selection
at Debenhams

LK SAYS...



"Why not pop a ball of yarn, a circular needle and some pretty stitch markers in Hollie and present it to a knitting friend this Christmas?"

LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT ELAINE BENNETT



work Row 1 of Chart as folls.
k1, work across ten sts from
Chart to last st, k1

□ Row 20, with WS facing
work Row 2 of Chart as folls:
p1, work across ten sts from
Chart to last st, p1

□ Rows 21-38: keeping sts at
edge of work as set, cont to
work Rows 3-20 of Chart

□ Row 39: k ***
Break off yarn A

Thread beads onto yarn B as
for Top edging from * to *,
rep whole sequence twice
in total

Use yarn B unless
otherwise instructed

□ Row 40: starting with a p
row work three rows in st st

□ Rows 43-63: rep from ***
to *** once

□ Row 64: p

□ Rows 65-85: rep from ***
to *** once

Break off yarn B

Cont in yarn A only to end

Thread beads onto yarn A in
full sequence:
(1G, 3A) ten times, (1G, 2A,
1G) ten times, (2G, 1A, 1G)
ten times

□ Rows 86-88, starting with a
p row work three rows in st st

□ Rows 89-90: rep Rows 19-20

□ Rows 91-93, keeping sts at

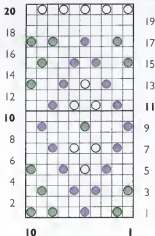


LK SAYS...



"This sparkling design is easier to knit than it looks! Beads are threaded onto the yarn in a specific order and knitted onto a stocking stitch background to create a multi-coloured beaded bag"

LK DESIGNER DEBBIE ABRAHAMS



□ K on RS, P on WS

● place bead, green

● place bead, amethyst

○ place bead, clear

edge of work as set, cont to
work Rows 3-5 of Chart
using yarn A instead of yarn
C on Row 5

□ Row 94: p

□ Change to 2.5mm needles

□ Row 95: k

□ Row 96 (dec): k33, k2tog,

k32, k2tog, k33: 100 sts

□ Rows 97-98: k

□ Rows 99-100: starting with
a k row work in st st

Base

□ Row 101 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k7) to end, 89 sts

□ Row 102 and all WS rows: p

□ Row 103 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k6) to end, 78 sts

□ Row 105 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k5) to end, 67 sts

□ Row 107 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k4) to end, 56 sts

□ Row 109 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k3) to end, 45 sts

□ Row 111 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k2) to end, 34 sts

□ Row 113 (dec): k1, (k2tog,
k1) to end, 23 sts

□ Row 115 (dec): k1, (k2tog)
to end, 12 sts

Break yarn and thread

through sts, draw up and
fasten off securely

Tie

Thread 30 clear beads onto
yarn B

Using 2.5mm needles and
yarn B cast on 151 sts with
thumb method as folls

(see Knit wise panel on
prev page):

Cast on two sts leaving
beads at ball side of these
sts, * slide bead up yarn so it
is sitting against needle, cast
on another st making sure
bead is pushed to RS of the
work (away from you) as
you put loop onto needle,
cast on one st without a

bead *, rep from * to * 13
times more, cast on one st
with a bead, cast on
another 90 sts, rep from *
to * 15 times

□ Cast off all sts twice

To make up

Darn in any ends on WS of
work. Press panels using a
damp pressing cloth and
a moderate iron, avoiding
beads as much as possible,
or spray knitting with cold
water and leave to dry. Sew
selvedge edges tog. Thread
tie through eyelets so two
ends are at front of bag,
opposite seam **LK**

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Artesano Superfine Alpaca DK is a wonderfully soft yarn made from 100% alpaca. Due to the mountainous conditions in which they live, alpacas have developed insulating fibres that also regulate temperature to prevent overheating. Both properties are perfect for knitwear. Items made in this yarn should be washed by hand.

Measurements & Sizes

Ruby: 35cm depth x 66cm circumference
Rosa: 30cm long

Knit Kit

Yarn: Artesano Superfine Alpaca DK, shade 1532 Chile, Ruby: three 50g balls; Rosa: two 50g balls

Needles: 4mm circular, 4mm double-pointed, 5mm straight (one)

Tapestry needle

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm
in pattern
4mm needles



Need an alternative yarn?

Natural fibres have brilliant insulating properties. If you want a machine washable alternative, try King Cole Merino Blend DK. It is a pure wool yarn that has been treated to make it easy to care for.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Knit! Shop!



Artesano Superfine Alpaca DK costs £4.49 per 50g (100m ball) from Yarnville, 0118 375 6338, www.yarnville.com

King Cole Merino Blend DK costs £3.15 per 50g (112m) ball from Clicketty Clack, 01844 273739, www.clickettyclack.co.uk

Ruby & Rosa

Red is one of this winter's trendiest shades making *Julie Ferguson's* matching combo a must-knit for all fashionistas

If you're frequently reaching for your purse, phone or bus ticket when you're out and about, then the constant removal of gloves or mittens is more than likely to lead to one going astray by the time you get home. These armwarmers are the perfect solution. They are long and cosy, and leave your fingers free for everyday tasks. The pretty stitch pattern is created using eyelets and regular and reverse stocking stitch worked in horizontal bands. The snugly cowl features the same design and is ideal for keeping out the winter chills.

exclusive
TO LET'S KNIT!

START HERE

RUBY PATTERN

Using 4mm circular needle, cast on 120 sts. Join in rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm at beg of rnd

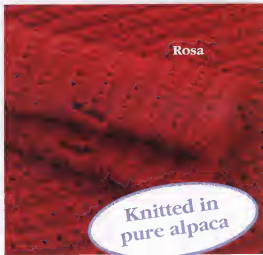
- Rnds 1-4: k
- Rnd 5: p
- Rnd 6. (yfwd, k2tog) rep to end of rnd
- Rnd 7: p
- Rnds 1-7 set patt
- Rep Rnds 1-7 until work meas 35cm
- Loosely cast off using 5mm needle
- Weave in ends

ROSA PATTERN

(make two)
Using 4mm dpns, cast on 36 sts. Join in rnd taking care not to twist sts
□ Work Rnds 1-7 as for Ruby ten times

THUMBHOLE

- Working back and forth (not in rnd) cont as folls:
- Beg with a k row work four rows in st st
- Next row: p
- Next row: p2, * yrn, p2tog, rep from * to end of row
- P two rows
- Next row: k
- Join back into rnd
- K two rnds
- Resume patt as for cowl



Yarn forward



1 Between knit stitches lift the ball end of the yarn towards you between the two needles. This is a yfwd.



2 Insert the needle into the next stitch to knit as the pattern directs and take the yarn back (away from you) so it lies over the right needle. Then, wrap the yarn anticlockwise around the right needle and knit the stitch.

WIN EIGHT
BALLS OF THIS
YARN + NEEDLES
AND PATTERNS!
SEE P79

Ruby

YARN DEMO
check out the video at
WWW.LETSKNIT.CO.UK

Knit WISE

Yarn Forward (yfwd) vs Yarn Round Needle (yrn)

Yfwd and yrn are two similar ways of increasing, but which one to use depends on the stitches on either side of the increase. If it is between two k stitches, bring the yarn to the front of the work between the needles, take it over the top of the RH needle and leave it at the back of the work ready to k the next st. This is a yarn forward. A yarn round needle is worked in a similar way but between two p sts. This time the yarn is already at the front so take it over the top of the RH needle then bring it back through between the needles so the yarn is at the front again for the following p stitch.

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

King Cole Merino Blend 4ply is made of 100% wool and comes in more than 20 shades. It can be machine washed.

Measurements & Sizes

Bauble: approx 10cm tall, approx 26cm circumference

Knit Kit

Yarn: King Cole Merino Blend 4ply, (A) shade 798 Damson, (B) shade S Sky, (C) shade 9 Scarlet, (D) shade 1 White, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3mm, double-pointed, set of five

Crochet hook: 0.75mm, 3mm

Seed beads: red, size 6/0, 20B

Stuffing: 100g, wool top or other soft filling

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

3mm needles

stocking stitch



Need an alternative yarn?

Wendy Peter Pan 4ply also comes in 50g balls and comprises 55% nylon and 45% acrylic. Choose similar shades 909 Sugar Plum, 910 Raindrop, 912 Rocket Red and 300 Pure White.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Comfort Joy & Tidings

These quick knits by **Anniken Allis** would make beautiful gifts

Knit some fun baubles for your Christmas tree this year with these three beautiful designs by Anniken Allis. A set wrapped up in tissue paper and presented to a friend would also make a stunning gift. Use colours to match your other decorations and add some beads like we have for that extra little bit of sparkle. Anniken was inspired by the baubles made by Norwegian designers Arne and Carlos, turn to page 43 to see their latest Christmas book.

START HERE

Stripe patt for Comfort

Rnds 1-4: yarn A
Rnds 5-6: yarn B
Rnds 7-8: yarn A
Rnds 9-10: yarn B
Rnds 11-12: yarn A
Rnds 13-16: yarn A
Rnds 17-19: yarn B
Rnds 20-25: rep Rows 5-10
Rnds 26-28: yarn A
Rnds 29-31: yarn B
Rnds 32-34: yarn A
Rnds 35-36: yarn B
Rnds 37-38: yarn A
Rnds 39-42: yarn B
Rnd 43: yarn A

BASIC PATTERN

NOTE: Follow Basic patt below for all baubles. Incorporate Stripe patt above if working Comfort

When instructed incorporate Fair Isle chart if working Joy and Bead chart if working Tidings
Using 3mm needles and

LK SAYS...



LK DESIGNER ANNIKEN ALLIS

"These fun Christmas baubles are the perfect way to decorate your tree this year and a great way to practice new techniques"

Knit! Shop!

King Cole Merino Blend 4ply costs £3.10 per 50g (180m) ball from Texere Yarns, 01274 722191, www.texere-yarns.co.uk



Wendy Peter Pan 4ply costs £2.95 per 50g (206m) ball from Modern Knitting, 01279 771153, www.modernknitting.co.uk

Seed beads: size 6/0, £1.99 per 18g bag, The Bead Shop Scotland, 01620 822886, www.beadshopscotland.co.uk



Knit WISE

Adding the beads

For our Tidings bauble the beads are added whilst knitting rather than threaded on the yarn before beginning. Here's how:

- Place a bead onto your 0.75mm crochet hook
- Lift the stitch off the knitting needle with the crochet hook, push the bead from the hook on to the stitch
- Place the stitch back on the left needle and knit as normal

appropriate yarn (A for Comfort, C for Joy, D for Tidings) cast on 12 sts, divide sts onto four dpns (three sts on each needle), join to work in the rnd, use fifth needle to k with

□ Rnds 1-2: k
□ Rnd 3: (k1, m1, k2) to end, 16 sts

□ Rnd 4 and all even-numbered rnds: k

□ Rnd 5: (k1, m1, k2, m1, k1) to end, 24 sts

□ Rnd 7: (k1, m1, k4, m1, k1) to end, 32 sts

□ Rnd 9: (k1, m1, k6, m1, k1) to end, 40 sts

□ Rnd 11: (k1, m1, k8, m1, k1) to end, 48 sts

□ Rnd 13: (k1, m1, k10, m1, k1) to end, 56 sts

□ Rnd 15: (k1, m1, k12, m1, k1) to end, 64 sts

□ Rnd 17: (k1, m1, k14, m1, k1) to end, 72 sts

□ Rnd 18: k

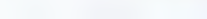
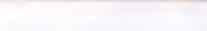
NOTE: if working Joy or Tidings design start appropriate Chart now, rep 18 sts of Chart four times across rnd, **AT THE SAME TIME** cont with Basic patt as folls:

□ Rnds 19-28: k

NOTE: if working Joy design weave in loose ends from Fair Isle patt now

□ Rnd 29: (k1, ssk, k12, k2tog, k1) to end, 64 sts

Joy



Treemendous

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Choose DK yarn from your stash for these little Christmas tree decorations.

Measurements & Sizes

Santa hat: 5.5cm wide x 6.5cm tall (exc. tassel)

Raglan sweater: 5cm wide x 9.5cm tall

Cable sweater: 6cm wide x 9cm tall

Christmas pudding: approx 10cm circumference

Christmas tree: 4.5cm widest point x 9.5cm tall

Knit Kit

Yarn: DK oddments in lime green, pale green, leaf green, brown, white, light red, dark red, light pink, dark pink and orange

Needles: 4mm

Cable needles

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

22 stitches x 30 rows

4mm needles

stocking stitch



Special abbreviations

C4B: slip next two sts onto cn, hold at back of work, k2, k2 from cn

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

K2tog



1 Insert the right needle into the front loops of next two stitches on the left needle. Then wrap the yarn anticlockwise around the tip and knit both stitches at the same time

Make these cute tree decorations by **Lucinda Ganderton** out of your stash

These five little beauties would make wonderful stocking and cracker fillers or little gifts for friends and colleagues. Make them out of that spare DK yarn you've got in your knitting bag. Choose from a cabled jumper, a raglan sweater, a Christmas tree, a tasty pudding and a Santa hat, or push the boat out and make all five!

Another great Christmas make is the new bauble kit from **Fingers and Thumbs** which contains everything you need to make four different baubles. It costs £14 from www.fingers-and-thumbs.com

START HERE

SANTA HAT

Using 4mm needles and white yarn cast on 21 sts

□ K three rows

Fasten off white yarn, join in light red yarn

□ Starting with a k row work three rows in st st

□ Row 4 and all even numbered rows: p

□ Row 5: (k5, k2tog) three times: 18 sts

□ Row 7: (k4, k2tog) three times: 15 sts

□ Row 9: (k3, k2tog) three times: 12 sts

□ Row 11: (k2, k2tog) three

times: Nine sts

□ Row 13: (k1, k2tog) three times: Six sts

□ Row 14: p

□ Row 15: (k2tog) three times: 12 sts

□ Cast off

exclusive
TO LET'S KNIT!

KEEP KNITTING ON P34

To make up

Join side seams. Make small tassel from white yarn and sew to tip

RAGLAN JUMPER Front and Back

(both alike)

- Using 4mm needles and white yarn cast on 14 sts
- K three rows
- Fasten off white yarn, join in light red yarn
- Starting with a k row work 13 rows in st st
- Join in light pink yarn
- Row 14: (p1 in light pink, p1 in light red) to end
- Fasten off light red yarn
- Row 15: using light pink yarn k to end
- Join in pale green yarn
- Row 16: (p1 in pale green yarn, p1 in pale pink) to end
- Fasten off pale pink yarn
- Row 17: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog
- Row 18: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog
- Row 19: rep Row 17.
- Eight sts
- Row 20: p
- Fasten off pale green yarn, join in white yarn
- Work four rows in garter st
- Cast off

Sleeves

(both alike)

- Using 4mm needles and white yarn cast on ten sts
- Work as for Front and

Back to completion of Row

- 19: Four sts
- Row 20: p2tog twice
- Cast off

To make up

Place Front and Back tog with WS facing. Join side edges of collar. Sew top of sleeves to top of yoke. Join underarm and side seams

CABLE JUMPER Front and Back

(both alike)

- Using 4mm needles and lime green yarn cast on 20 sts
- Rows 1-3: (k1, p1) to end
- Row 4 (RS): (p4, k4) twice, p4
- Row 5: (k4, p4) twice, k4
- Row 6: (p4, C4B) twice, p4
- Row 7: (k4, p4) twice, k4
- Row 8-19: rep Rows 4-7 three times
- Row 20: cast off six sts (one st on RH needle), k1, p4, k4, p4
- Row 21: cast off six sts (one st on RH needle), p1, k4, p2. Eight sts
- Rows 22-30: (k1, p1) to end
- Cast off
- Join shoulder and collar seams

Sleeves

(both alike)

- With WS facing pick up and k seven sts from each side of shoulder seam. 14 sts
- Rows 1-14: starting with a p

row work in rev st st

- Rows 15-18: (k1, p1) to end
- Cast off

To make up

Fold collar over to form roll neck. Join underarm and side seams

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

- Using 4mm needles and brown yarn cast on 15 sts
- Work 12 rows in st st
- Cut off yarn leaving a 30cm end, pass this through rem sts and gather tightly. Join side edges. Gather one open edge and fasten off. Stuff firmly into round shape with offcuts of brown wool. Gather second opening and fasten off

Cream

- Using 4mm needles and white yarn cast on 24 sts
- Rows 1-2: starting with a k row work in st st
- Row 3: (k1, k2tog) to end. 16 sts
- Row 4: p



Christmas tree

LK SAYS...



"Make bangers for your decorations by threading a length of plasticised beading wire or crochet yarn through the top of the ornament and knotting the ends together"

LK DESIGNER LUCINDA GANDERTON



Raglan jumper

Cable jumper

- Row 5: (k2tog) to end
- Cut off yarn leaving a 30cm end, pass this through rem sts and gather tightly. Join side seam. Sew to top of pudding

Leaf (make two)

- Using 4mm needles and leaf green yarn cast on two sts
- Row 1: k
- Row 2: p1, m1, p1
- Row 3: k2, m1, k1. Four sts
- Row 4: p
- Row 5: (k2tog) twice
- Cast off

To make up

Sew leaves to centre top of pudding. Using dark red make six berries out of French knots

CHRISTMAS TREE Tree (make two)

Using 4mm needles and



Christmas pudding

Santa hat

Turn to p72 for a step-by-step guide to French knots

- pale green yarn cast on 21 sts
- Rows 1-4, (k1, p1) to last st, k1 (moss st)
 - Row 5, (k5, k2tog) three times. 18 sts
 - Row 6 and foll even-numbered rows: p
 - Row 7, (k4, k2tog) three times. 15 sts
 - Row 9, (k3, k2tog) three times. 12 sts
 - Row 11, (k2, k2tog) three times. Nine sts
 - Row 13, (k1, k2tog) three times. Six sts
 - Row 15, (k2tog) three times
 - Cast off

Trunk

- Using 4mm needles and brown yarn cast on six sts
- Rows 1-6, starting with a k row work in st st
 - Cast off

Pot

- Using 4mm needles and

- dark pink yarn cast on six sts
- Rows 1-6, starting with a k row work in st st
 - Row 7: k2tog, k2, k2tog. Four sts
 - Row 8: p
 - Row 9: k1, m1, k2, m1, k1. Six sts
 - Rows 10-15: starting with a p row work in st st
 - Cast off

To make up

Sew top side edges of trees. Stuff lightly with offcuts of pale green yarn with k side facing. Join top and bottom edges of trunk and slip one end into gap at bottom edge of tree. Sew front and back tog securely. Join side edges of pot and put it over bottom of trunk, then join front and back edges. Embellish tree with French knots worked in dark pink, orange and lime green **LK**

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TURN TO
PAGE 39
FOR A CLASSIC
FESTIVE
STOCKING
PATTERN

STOCKING up for *Christmas*

Discover the link between knitting and the classic tradition of the *Christmas stocking*

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care" or so the poem goes, but the true origins of the Christmas stockings we know today are still up for debate. Some people trace them back to a 16th century Scandinavian custom that has since spread around the world, while other tales tell of the generosity of Saint Nicholas. Whatever the roots of the tradition, the hanging of stockings is one of the most popular rituals of Christmas Eve and before mass-produced designs became available many socks and stockings that were hung up with seasonal anticipation were knitted by hand.



LOST IN LEGEND

Many stories and theories have been offered in answer to the question, "Why do we put up stockings at Christmas?" One of the strongest arguments is based on the Dutch tradition of children leaving shoes stuffed with straw by the hearth for Sinterklaas' reindeer. The next morning, they would find sweets left behind as a sign of gratitude. As the tradition spread over time, the shoes became stockings. Another popular story is of a poor man who could not afford the wedding dowries for his three daughters. After hearing of the family's plight, Saint Nicholas crept into the house and left a bag of gold coins in each of the daughter's socks that were drying by the fire. The *satsuma* which is often left in stockings today is

said to represent a bag of coins. In Italy the witch Befana leaves either ashes or sweets in kids' shoes on the 5th of January and this has developed into the idea that naughty children will receive coal in their stocking on Christmas Eve.



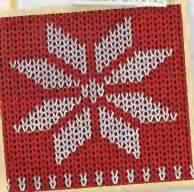
ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF

While socks are now one of the first items of clothing we pull on, they're not as old as you might think. Men used to wear hose, similar to tights, and it wasn't until the late 16th century that these developed into separate breeches and stockings. Woolen and silk stockings were knitted by hand on double-pointed needles using the same methods as we use now. As breeches lengthened into trousers long stockings were unnecessary and shorter socks became more popular. Women would spend many hours knitting and darning homemade socks for the whole family. Although the arrival of the Industrial revolution and subsequent developments in knitting machines meant that wool and socks could be mass-produced, the principles of hand knitting socks still remain the same today.



An engraving of William Shakespeare wearing hose

FESTIVE FAIR ISLE



Many stockings are knitted in bright holiday colours like red and green, and while some feature modern Christmas intarsia motifs, others favour more traditional Nordic designs. Motifs such as stars and snowflakes are timeless and look really impressive. The technique involves stranding the yarn across the back of the work – remember not to pull the yarns too tightly or the fabric will have no give. Why not personalise your stocking with your own pattern? All you need is some knitter's graph paper and colouring pencils and you could even incorporate your own name or initials. If you need a refresher on Fair Isle or intarsia knitting, check out our free online tutorials at www.letsknit.co.uk

DECK THE HEELS

Nowadays we have special Christmas stockings that are bigger and more decorative than your usual footwear, but all are based on the traditional sock shape.

The three main types of heels for regular socks are short rows, peasant heels (where a section is knitted using spare yarn that is later removed and the heel worked in its place) or heel flaps. We recommend either of the first two methods if you are going to knit your own stocking as these give you a more angled foot and a neater finish. In order for your stocking to lie flat when it is hung, you will need to work the toe to give a vertical edge as opposed to a horizontal one which would be used on a regular sock.



IT'S A GIFT!

Once you've finished knitting your stocking, all you need to do is fill it with glorious goodies. Here are a few great ideas...

Silver Knitting Needle Gauge, £49, Tall Yarns 'n' Tales. **01428 607516**, www.tallyarns.co.uk



Mini Sock Blocker, pattern and yarn, £5 (£3.50 without yarn), The Yarn Cafe, www.theyarncafe.com



Lantern Moon repair hook, £6.50 The Knitting Shop, **0207 226 0800**, www.theknittingshop.co.uk



Rico Bruno Bear kit, Crafty Yarn, **01793 855535**, www.crafty-yarn.co.uk

Visit to www.letsknit.co.uk for more gift ideas!

ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF

Miniature stockings make great decorations for the Christmas tree, or as packaging ideas for items of jewellery or other small gifts. The pattern for these delightful designs is available for FREE from Little Cotton Rabbits at www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk



Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

MillaMia Naturally Soft Merino is a gorgeous pure wool yarn that is soft, smooth and easy to knit with. It knits to a tension that is in between a DK and 4ply and can be machine washed, making it ideal for children's items.

Measurements & Sizes

Length to heel: 31cm

Width at cuff: 16.5cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: MillaMia Naturally Soft Merino,
(A) shade 124 Snow, two 50g balls, (B) shade
141 Grass, one 50g ball

Needles: 3mm, 3.25mm

Stitch holders: two

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.25mm needles



FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86



LOOK LEFT FOR OUR
MILLAMIA STOCKIST GUIDE

Candy Cane

Try a different colourway this Christmas with
MillaMia's festive stocking

Neat green and white stripes give this stocking a really modern look, and steer away from the traditional red and gold combo. It's a good size too so there's plenty of room for exciting goodies. Handknitted stockings are brilliant for passing down the generations and can soon become treasured family heirlooms. Read more about this tradition on page 36. The construction of this stocking is a little unusual and you will end up with a butterfly effect. This is because the seam needs to be at the back of the stocking.

START HERE

Using 3mm needles and yarn A cast on 82 sts
□ Work in garter st until cuff meas 7cm from cast-on edge
□ Working in stripes of two rows in yarn B and four rows in yarn A, cont in st st until stocking meas 14cm from beg, ending with a p row
Change to 3.25mm needles
□ Cont in stripes until work meas 31cm from beg, ending with one row in yarn A
Cont in yarn A only

SHAPE HEEL

□ Next row: p21 sts, turn
□ Work 21 rows in st st on these 21 sts only
□ Row 22 (WS): p4, p2tog, p1, turn
□ Row 23 and all RS rows: sl1, k to end
□ Row 24: p6, p2tog, p1, turn
□ Rows 26, 28 and 30, cont as set for WS rows, working two extra p sts before the dec on each row
□ Row 32: p14, p2tog
Break yarn and leave rem 15 sts on a holder
□ With WS facing, rejoin yarn A to rem sts on LH needle, p40, place these sts on a holder, p to end
□ Work 20 rows in st st on these rem 21 sts
□ Row 21 (RS): k4, skpo, k1, turn
□ Row 22 and all WS rows: sl1, p to end
□ Row 23: k6, skpo, k1, turn
□ Rows 25, 27 and 29: cont as set for RS rows, working two extra k sts before the dec on each row
□ Row 31: k14, skpo, turn
□ Row 32: sl1, p14

SHAPE INSTEP

□ Using yarn A, k15, pick up and k15 sts evenly along inside edge of heel, k40 from holder, pick up and k15 sts along inside edge of heel, k15 from holder, 100 sts
□ P one row
Cont in stripe patt as before beg with two rows in yarn B and work as folls:
□ Next row (dec): k28, k2tog, k40, skpo, k28
□ Next row and all WS rows: p to end
□ Next RS row (dec): k27, k2tog, k40, skpo, k27
□ Next RS row (dec): k26, k2tog, k40, skpo, k26
□ Cont to dec one st either side of centre 40 sts on next and five foll alt rows. 82 sts
□ Work 31 rows in st st

SHAPE TOE

□ Next row (dec): k5, skpo, k28, k2tog, k8, skpo, k28, k2tog, k5
□ Next row and all WS rows: p to end
□ Next RS row (dec): k5, skpo, k26, k2tog, k8, skpo, k26, k2tog, k5
□ Next RS row (dec): k5, skpo, k24, k2tog, k8, skpo, k24, k2tog, k5
□ Next RS row (dec): k5, skpo, k22, k2tog, k8, skpo,

k22, k2tog, k5

Cont in yarn A only
□ Next RS row (dec): k5, skpo, k20, k2tog, k8, skpo, k20, k2tog, k5
□ Next RS row (dec): k5, skpo, k18, k2tog, k8, skpo, k18, k2tog, k5, 58 sts
□ Next RS row: cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], k next 26 sts, turn
□ Cast off two sts at beg of next seven rows. 13 sts
□ Cast off rem sts
□ Next row: with RS facing, rejoin yarn A to rem sts, cast off two sts [one st on RH needle], k to end
□ Cast off two sts at beg of next seven rows. 13 sts
□ Cast off rem sts

Loop

Using 3mm needles and yarn A cast on 40 sts
□ K one row
□ Cast off

To make up

Using mattress stitch sew side seam, remembering to join on RS side for garter st cuff. Fold cuff over. Fold loop in half and attach to back of stocking **LK**

LK SAYS...



"MillaMia yarns comes in some lovely shades - try stripes in 140 Scarlet or 101 Midnight or any combo you like"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Bergere de France Toison is a chunky boucle yarn comprising 77% acrylic, 20% wool and 3% polyamide. **Bergere de France Annelly** is a 4ply yarn made from 50% acrylic and 50% lyocell – a cellulose-based fibre processed from recycled paper.

Bergere de France Lima is a soft, DK-weight blend of 80% worsted wool and 20% alpaca. **Bergere de France Plume** is a chunky yarn with a feathery texture that is made of 47% polyamide, 42% acrylic and 11% wool. All these yarns are machine washable but use the most gentle setting that is instructed by any of the four yarns.

Measurements & Sizes

Siena (armwarmers): 25cm long

To fit: adult-sized wrists

Apollonia (cowl): 34cm long x 66cm wide at shoulders (when flat)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Bergere de France Toison, (A) shade L2609 Muse, (B) shade L2509 Eveque, three 50g balls of each, (C) Bergere de France Annelly, shade L2574 Ultraviolet, two 50g balls, (D) Bergere de France Lima, shade L1170 Avocat, three 50g balls, (E) Bergere de France Plume, shade L3329 Aureole, one 50g ball

Needles: 7mm circular 60cm; 8mm circular 60cm; 8mm straight; 9mm straight (one)

Crochet hook: 5mm

Stitch markers, two colours

Tapestry needle

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

moss stitch

8mm needles

NOTE: tension square should be worked in yarns A, C and D held together

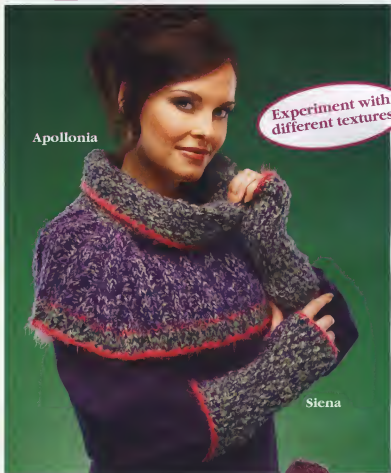


Need an alternative yarn?

Try experimenting with combinations of differently textured yarns from your stash. **Sirdar Persia Chunky** is a lovely bouclé yarn so could work well in this project. For the edging, check out **Mo Glow**, a brilliant fluffy acrylic and mohair blend that comes in four luminous shades.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Siena & Apollonia



Experiment with different textures

Apollonia

Siena

Let's Knit! Shop!



Sirdar Persia costs £3.59 per 50g (85m) ball from Deramores, 0845 519 4573, www.deramores.com

Mo Glow costs £2.99 per 50g (100m) ball from Texere, 01274 722191, www.texere-yarns.co.uk



Bergere de France Toison costs £2.59 per 50g (70m) ball, **Bergere de France Annelly** costs £3.69 per 50g (150m) ball, **Bergere de France Lima** costs £3.29 per 50g (110m) ball, **Bergere de France Plume** costs £3.79 per 50g (60m) ball, all from Into Knit, 0845 8383 762, www.intoknit.co.uk

Live la vie bohème with Veronica Shaw's multi-textured armwarmers and cowl combo

This fabulous set is perfect for those of you who love unusual accessories. Each section uses three differently textured yarns held together to create a really interesting fabric and the cowl combines both rib and moss stitch. The use of three yarns at once makes these accessories super chunky so they're ideal for wintry days. LK designer Veronica has opted for a bright pink crocheted edge worked in fluffy yarn but you could always use blanket stitch to give a similar finish.

START HERE

SIENA make two
NOTE: worked sideways using multiple strands held together, letters indicate which yarns to use
 Using 8mm straight needles and yarns BCD, cast on 23 sts loosely
 □ Row 1 (RS): (k3, p2), rep to last three sts, k3
 □ Row 2: (p3, k2), rep to last three sts, p3
 Change to yarns ACD
 □ Next row: (k1, p1), rep to last st, k1
 This row sets moss st
 □ Work in moss st for 24 rows
 Change to yarns BCD
 □ Rep rows 1 and 2 once more
 □ Cast off loosely in moss st

To make up

Weave in ends on WS. Do not cut tails at beg and end of knitting as these are needed for stitching. Using tapestry needle, yarns BCD, and with RS facing outwards sew up first three k sts using mattress st. Using tail from other end of work, use mattress st to sew up main seam leaving five sts open to form thumbhole. Weave in ends to secure. Complete second armwarmer to match

exclusive TO LET'S KNIT

THUMB EDGING

Using 5mm crochet hook and yarn E, with RS facing join yarn loop into st at bottom of thumbhole, 2ch, 1 dc
 □ 2dc into five sts up first side of thumb hole, 2dc into top seam, 2dc into five sts down other side of thumb, sl st into second of 2ch, fasten off

OUTER EDGING

□ Using 5mm crochet hook and yarn E join yarn through seam of edge
 □ Work around edge 2dc into k sts of moss st only to end, fasten off

APOLLONIA

NOTE: worked using multiple strands held together, letters indicate which yarns to use
 Using 8mm circular needle and ACD, cast on 140 sts, join in rnd and pm at beg of row, slip marker at start of every rnd
 □ Rnd 1 (RS): (k3, p2) to end
 □ Rnd 2: (k3, p2) for 70 sts, pm [different colour - this is front of work], (k3, p2)

LK SAYS...



LK DESIGNER VERONICA SHAW

"This cowl is a lovely luxury garment to make and wear with the added advantage that there is virtually no making up after knitting"



to end
 Slip markers throughout
 □ Rnd 3: (k3, p2) to end
 Drop yarns A and D, join in yarn E
 □ Rnd 4: using yarns CE (k3,

Knit WISE

Working with multiple strands

This pattern requires you to knit with several yarns at the same time, which gives a really interesting textured effect. The yarns are held together right from the beginning and casting on can prove quite fiddly, but work slowly and make sure that you always catch all the strands. This is the same when knitting as it is easy to split the group. The balls of yarn can often get tangled too so try placing each one in a zip-lock bag, leaving a small gap to feed the yarn through.

KEEP KNITTING ON P42

p2) to end
Cut yarns A and E, pick up
yarn D and join in yarn B
Using yarns BCD cont
as folls:

- Rnd 5: (k3, p2) to end
- Rnd 6 (dec): * k3, p2tog,
(k3, p2) until five sts before
marker, k3, p2tog, rep from *
once more. 136 sts
- Rnds 7-8: * k3, p1, (k3, p2)
to four sts before marker, k3,
p1, rep from * once more
- Rnd 9 (dec): * k3, p2tog,
k2, (p2, k3) to six sts before
marker, p2, k2, p2tog, rep
from * once more. 132 sts
- Rnds 10-11: * k3, p1, k2, rib
to three sts before marker,
k2, p1, rep from * once more
- Rnd 12: * k3, p2tog, k1, rib to
three sts before marker, k1,
p2tog, rep from * to end. 128 sts
- Rnds 13-14: * k3, p1, k1, p2,
rib to four sts before
marker, p1, k1, p2, rep from
* once more
- Dec as set on every third
rnd until 100 sts rem
- Next rnd: rib to end

Neck shaping and collar

Change to 7mm needles, cut

- yarn B and join in yarn A.
- Rnd 32: using yarns ACD
(k3, p2tog) to end. 80 sts
- Rnd 33: (k1, p1) to last two
sts, k2tog. 79 sts
- Change to 8mm needles
- Work in moss st until collar
meas 15cm
- Cast off loosely using
9mm needle

To make up

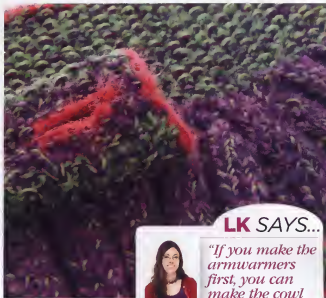
Weave in ends and work
edgings as folls:

BOTTOM EDGE

Using a 5mm crochet hook,
yarn E, with RS facing and
starting at cast-on edge join
yarn at beg of a k3 section
□ (2ch, 1dc) in first st, 2dc in
each of next two sts, * 1dc in
each of next two p sts, 2dc
in each of next three k sts,
rep from * to last two p sts,
1dc in each st, fasten off
Weave in ends

TOP EDGE

Using 5mm hook, yarn E,
with WS facing and starting
at cast-off edge join yarn to
any k st
□ (2ch, 1dc) in first k st, 2dc
in each k st to end, fasten off



Weave in ends

ALTERNATIVE EDGING

If you cannot crochet, work
edges in blanket st working
into sts as directed in crochet
edging instructions **LK**

LK SAYS...



*"If you make the
armwarmers
first, you can
make the cowl
as long or short
as you like without
worrying about running
out of yarn"*

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

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Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Rowan Alpaca Chunky is made up of 98% alpaca and 2% polyamide and has an interesting plaited texture. Alpaca fibre has great insulating properties and the special plait effect will help trap even more air for extra warmth. This yarn only comes in natural undyed colourways and there are four to choose from. It should be washed by hand.

Measurements & Sizes

Vincent: 24cm wide x 230cm long

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Alpaca Chunky, shade 071

Sparrow, four 100g balls

Needles: 10mm



TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

in pattern

10mm needles

Need an alternative yarn?

Debbie Bliss Paloma has a similar plaited effect and is made from 60% baby alpaca and 40% merino wool. It also should be washed by hand. Choose from a rainbow of 16 colourful shades.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Let's Knit! Shop!

Two balls of yarn are shown. The top one is brown and labeled 'ROWAN alpaca chunky'. The bottom one is red and labeled 'Debbie Bliss Paloma'.

Rowan Alpaca Chunky costs £10.95 per 50g (70m) ball from Laughing Hens, 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

Debbie Bliss Paloma costs £5.95 per 50g (65m) ball from Cucumberpatch, 01782 862332, www.cucumberpatch.co.uk

Vincent

Sarah Hazell's luxuriously soft scarf is understated yet stylish and perfect for the man in your life

A classic, textured scarf with a reversible pattern in a wonderfully soft natural yarn, who wouldn't want this for Christmas? Some men might feel a bit embarrassed at the thought of wearing a handmade gift in front of the lads but expect to get lots of positive feedback when he wears this great knit on a night out with the boys this winter. As the pattern is based on a rib effect, it is reversible so it doesn't matter which side is showing – it looks good from every angle.

exclusive
TO LET'S KNIT!

START HERE

Scarf

Using 10mm needles cast on 26 sts

- Row 1 (RS) k1, p1, * k1tbl, k1, p1, k1tbl, p2, rep from * to end of row, ending last rep with a k st in place of a p st
- Row 2: k2, * p1tbl, k1, p1,

- p1tbl, k2, rep from * to end
 - Row 3: k1, p1, * k1tbl, p1, k1, k1tbl, p2, rep from * to end of row, ending last rep with a k st in place of a p st
 - Row 4: k2, * p1tbl, p1, k1, p1tbl, k2, rep from * to end
- These four rows form patt

- Cont in patt until work meas approx 230cm ending on a Row 4
- Cast off very loosely in patt

To make up

Weave in any loose ends **LK**

A man is shown from the chest up, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a thick, textured brown scarf. The scarf has a ribbed pattern and is shown from both sides, demonstrating its reversibility.

This reversible stitch pattern makes the scarf look good whichever way round it's worn.

LK SAYS...

"I love this scarf, the alpaca fibre is unbelievably soft and snuggly - I am more than tempted to keep it for myself!"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

Knit WISE

Purling through the back loop

Rows 2 and 4 of this stitch pattern instruct you to purl through the back loop. This is a rather fiddly stitch to do if you've never done it before. The easiest way of doing it is to take your RH needle around the back of your work so the two needles are almost parallel, then insert it from left to right into the back of the stitch. Keeping the stitch on the LH needle, return your RH needle to its regular position and purl the stitch on the LH needle.



Man's
reversible scarf

Part 2

Diary of a Christmas KNITTER

It's almost the big day! Will our festive knitter finish her gifts and keep her friends and her job? By **Claire Thomas**

18 days 'til Christmas

My Christmas knitting is getting critical. I've finished Mum's cushion at last. It's sitting, plump and pretty in my wardrobe. Frantically I review my list.

Dad - cabled socks to protect him from blisters on long country walks

Tina - matching angora wrap and blackberry stitch clutch for nights out, now to be in blue rather than the green she said she hates

My brother Gerry - cosy for his beloved iPad

Nanna - hot water bottle cover

Little Alice, the next door neighbour's three-year-old - a cuddly tiger

Hastily I cross off Little Alice and resolve to buy her some sweets instead. The thought of weaving in endless orange and black ends on Christmas Eve makes my blood run cold. I consider crossing Nanna off the list as well - after all, you can buy hot water bottle cosies at Boots - but immediately feel like a traitor to the knitting sorority. And besides, I can knit it up in chunky yarn with big needles and it'll only take a couple of days. I cast it on hastily and knit a few rows. It was going to be a complicated knit-and-purl pattern inspired by a Scottish

fisherman's gansey, but now it's going to have to be plain old 2x2 rib. Luckily, in Rowan Little Big Wool, that looks rather good.

I get to about three-quarters of the way through the hot water bottle cover. I'm beginning to feel quite pleased with myself. I'm actually getting stuff done! And that's when I realise I'm going to run out of the half ball of yarn I'd allotted. To the stash! I scramble through the yarn I have. I'm sure - positive - that I have a quarter ball more, and I'm right. I find it, only to discover they're different dye lots. Never mind. I decide to alternate the remaining yarn to do a bit of subtle striping. Thank goodness, I've just got enough. I cast off, sew up and breathe a heartfelt sigh of relief.

No time to sit on my laurels, though. I make myself a cup of tea and start Tina's clutch bag. I've only got six rows done when I remember what I'd temporarily forgotten - that blackberry stitch, although undoubtedly beautiful, also makes me want to tear my hair out while I'm knitting it because it's so fiddly to do. And it takes me ages. I take a break and cast on for Dad's socks.



Mum - pink striped sweater
Dad - cabled socks
Tina - angora wrap and bag
Gerry - iPad cosy
Nanna - hot water bottle cover
Little Alice - a cuddly tiger
Call Jane - party invite

16 days 'til Christmas

Progress has been limited to two rows of sock. I went to the work Christmas do last night and now have the hangover to end all hangovers.

It persists late into the evening, leaving me unable to do anything but lie on the sofa groaning and clutching a cup of tea. Can't do that again or I'll never finish all this knitting. With that in mind I ring and cancel all my plans for the following week, including a friend's

birthday party, making a series of increasingly rubbish excuses. Oh, the guilt. I feel so dreadful about the birthday party that I end up agreeing to go to the pictures with said friend tonight. I stuff Dad's socks in my bag. Well, if the Yarn Harlot knits at the cinema, why can't I?



We are twenty minutes into the longest, most tedious film on the planet when I discover that you can't turn a heel in the dark. I try to put right the awful mistake I've made, and seem to manage it, but I can't pick up stitches in the dark which means I have to put the sock down. Later I discover that the heel is salvageable, but the cable went way off centre early on, and it now looks like a plait done by a drunk. I have to rip it back and end up knitting two plain stocking stitch socks instead, which may not be exciting but at least are ready in time.

10 days 'til Christmas

I took a drastic step yesterday and rang in sick in order to finish Tina's blackberry stitch bag. I claimed I'd had food poisoning as a result of bad shellfish at the Chinese buffet we often go to after work. Now I feel guilty, in case people stop going there. At least the awful blackberry stitch bag gets finished. I sew it up and add a pretty silver button.



Christmas Eve

Tina's wrap, the last thing on the last, is NOT FINISHED! It's only a foot long! It's ten to midnight, and I'm sat up in bed at my parent's house, frantically knitting and unknitting. At five past two, I realise that I'm falling asleep over my needles.

How on earth am I going to finish it in time?

And then a happy thought occurs to me. Tina's birthday is January 10th. I'm not going to pull an all-nighter on Christmas Eve. Instead, it can be a birthday present.

And with that, I put down my needles.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

6 days 'til Christmas



Everyone in the office looked at me very strangely when I walked in after only a day off with food poisoning. In order to allay my boss's suspicions, I had to work late the last few days. And when I say late, I mean late, as in late enough to stop me doing any knitting at all. Luckily, the weekend comes, and I can make Gerry's multi-stripped iPad cosy – provided I leave the washing up, housework and everything else that needs doing. It's a hard life.

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Rowan Big Wool is a cosy yarn made of 100% merino that is perfect for structured and cabled knits. It should be washed by hand and comes in 24 solid shades including lipstick red and sumptuous purple.

Measurements & Sizes

Size: S (M, L, XL, XXL)

Dress size (approx):

8-10 (12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26)

To fit bust (cm):

81-86 (91-97, 102-107, 112-117, 122-127)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Big Wool, shade 055 Eternal, 7 (7, 8, 9, 10) 100g balls

Needles: 10mm

Cable needle

Button: one, 31mm, horn

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
10mm needles



Special abbreviations

C3B: sl next st onto cn and leave at back of work, k2, then k1 from cn

C3F: sl next twosts onto cn and leave at front of work, k1, then k2 from cn

C4B: sl next two sts onto cn and leave at back of work, k2, then k2 from cn

C4F: sl next two sts onto cn and leave at front of work, k2, then k2 from cn

Cr3L: sl next two sts onto cn and leave at front of work, p1, then k2 from cn

Cr3R: sl next st onto cn and leave at back of work, k2, then p1 from cn

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

lets Knit! Shop!

Rowan Big Wool costs
£8.50 per 100g (80m)
ball from Tricquette,
020 7372 4944,
www.tricquetteyarns.com



Cordial

Sarah Hatton's chunky cardigan is perfect for winter mornings

This gorgeous pattern is taken from the winter essentials collection in Rowan Magazine 50. Designed to reflect this season's key shapes and textures in an easy-to-wear style, Cordial is knitted in a warm neutral tone that will go with everything.



START KNITTING ON P50

Body

NOTE: Right and left sections (including sleeves) are joined separately and then worked ready for working Back

Right front

Using 10mm needles cast on 27 (29, 32, 35, 38) sts

□ Row 1 (RS): p
□ Row 2 (WS): p
□ Row 3: p1, [k1, p1] 5 (6, 6, 7, 7) times, work next 12 sts as Row 1 of Cable chart, [p1, k1] 2 (2, 3, 4, 5) times, p0 (0, 1, 0, 1)

□ Row 4: p0 (0, 1, 0, 1), [k1, p1] 2 (2, 3, 4, 5) times, work 12 sts as Row 2 of Cable chart, p1, [k1, p1] 5 (6, 6, 7, 7) times

Rows 3-4 set Cable chart panel with moss st at each side. Keeping sts correct throughout as set cont as folls:

□ Work 28 (30, 30, 32, 34)

rows ending with R5 facing for next row

SHAPE FOR SLEEVE

□ Keeping patt correct inc one st at end of next row and at same edge on foll three rows, taking inc sts into moss st. 31 (33, 36, 39, 42) sts

□ Work one row
□ Cast on nine sts at beg of next row, then 10 (11, 12, 12, 12) sts at beg of foll alt row, taking cast on sts into moss st. 50 (53, 57, 60, 63) sts

□ Work two rows ending with RS facing for next row

□ Next row (RS): patt two sts, yrn, work 2 tog (to make buttonhole), patt to end
□ Work one row ending with R5 facing for next row

SHAPE FRONT SLOPE

□ Next row (RS): patt two sts, work 3 tog, patt to end. 48 (51, 55, 58, 61) sts

□ Working all front slope decs as set by last row and keeping patt correct, dec two sts at beg of 2nd (2nd, 4th, 4th, 4th) and 3 (3, 2, 2, 1) foll four rows, then on 0 (0, 1, 1, 2) foll sixth rows. 40 (43, 47, 50, 53) sts

□ Work five rows ending with RS facing for next row
□ Next row (RS): patt two sts, [p1, k1, p1] all into next st, patt to end. 42 (45, 49, 52, 55) sts

□ Work one row ending with RS facing for next row
Break yarn and leave sts on a holder

Left front

Using 10mm needles cast on 27 (29, 32, 35, 38) sts

□ Row 1 (RS): p
□ Row 2 (WS): p
□ Row 3: p0 (0, 1, 0, 1), [k1, p1] 2 (2, 3, 4, 5) times, work 12 sts as Row 1 of Cable chart, p1, [k1, p1] 5 (6, 6, 7, 7) times

□ Row 4: p1, [k1, p1] 5 (6, 6, 7, 7) times, work 12 sts as Row 2 of Cable chart, [p1, k1] 2 (2, 3, 4, 5) times, p0 (0, 1, 0, 1)

Rows 3-4 set Cable chart panel with moss st at each side. Keeping sts correct throughout as set cont as folls:

□ Work 28 (30, 30, 32, 34) rows ending with R5 facing for next row

SHAPE FOR SLEEVE

□ Keeping patt correct inc one st at beg of next row and at same edge on foll three rows, taking inc sts into moss st. 31 (33, 36, 39, 42) sts

□ Cast on nine sts at beg of next row then 10 (11, 12, 12, 12) sts at beg of foll alt row, taking cast-on sts into moss st. 50 (53, 57, 60, 63) sts
□ Work five rows ending with RS facing for next row

SHAPE FRONT SLOPE

□ Next row (RS): patt to last five sts, work 3 tog, patt two sts 48 (51, 55, 58, 61) sts

□ Working all front slope decs as set by last row and keeping patt correct, dec two sts at end of 2nd (2nd, 4th, 4th, 4th) and 3 (3, 2, 2, 1) foll 4th rows, then on 0 (0, 1, 1, 2) foll sixth rows. 40 (43, 47, 50, 53) sts

□ Work five rows, ending with RS facing for next row

□ Next row (RS): patt to last three sts, [p1, k1, p1] all into next st, patt two sts 42 (45, 49, 52, 55) sts

□ Work one row ending with R5 facing for next row, do NOT break yarn

JOIN SECTIONS

□ Next row (RS): p42 (45, 49, 52, 55) sts of Left front, turn, cast on 11 sts, turn, patt across 42 (45, 49, 52, 55) sts of Right front. 95 (101, 109, 115, 121) sts

□ Work 27 (27, 31, 31, 33) rows ending with RS facing for next row

SHAPE FOR SLEEVES

□ Keeping patt correct cast off 10 (11, 12, 12, 12) sts at beg of next two rows, then nine sts at beg of foll two rows 57 (61, 67, 73, 79) sts

□ Dec one st each end of next four rows. 49 (53, 59, 65, 71) sts

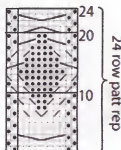
□ Work 31 (33, 33, 35, 37) rows, ending with WS facing for next row

□ Next row (WS): p
□ Cast off pwise on R5

To make up

Press according to ball band instructions. Sew in all ends. Join side and sleeve seams using mattress stitch. Sew on button to correspond with buttonhole **LK**

Cable chart



key

- K on RS, P on WS
- ▣ P on RS, K on WS
- ▨ C4B
- ▨ C4F
- ▨ Cr3R
- ▨ Cr3L
- ▨ C3B
- ▨ C3F





 **LK LOVES...**
This pattern comes from Rowan Magazine 50
which contains 30 patterns by talented designers like
Kaffe Fassett, Amanda Crawford and Erika Knight. Buy a
copy for £11.95 from Laughing Hens, 01823 740903,
www.laughinghens.com



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Preston - Hanley (Stoke-on-Trent) - Bolton

It ain't natural

1 Cascade Fixation

Unbelievably you can make a whole pair of short socks from this ball of yarn. Made of 98% cotton and 2% elastic, it is stretchy and soft and comes in a wide range of solid shades. A 50g (91m) ball costs £3.95 from Nutty Knitting Supplies, **07905 840848**, www.nuttyknittingsupplies.co.uk



If wool makes you itchy or you prefer using non-animal fibres, you'll love this selection

2 Banana Silk

Often described as a vegan alternative to silk, this yarn is made of 100% banana fibre from a renewable and environmentally-friendly source. It is thick and strong with a fantastic sheen and would be perfect for a bag or unusual accessory. A 100g (64m) skein costs £2.95 from Ethnic Crafts, **01383 223008**, www.ethniccrafts.co.uk

3 James C. Brett Marble Chunky

Made of 100% acrylic, this excellent-value yarn comes in 200g balls. Pick from 30 vivid shades. A 200g (312m) ball costs £4.14 from Texere Yarns, **01274 722191**, www.texere-yarns.co.uk

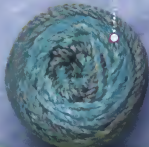


8 Lion Brand Homespun

This soft, chunky textured yarn is made of 80% acrylic and 2% polyester and comes in a wide range of stripes, including solid, striped and tweedy options. We love shade 415 Pesto shown here. A 170g (169m) ball costs £6.14 from Banyan Tree Yarns, **+00 356 2163 6970**, www.banyantreeyarns.com

7 Kollage Luscious

Luscious by name and luscious by nature, this pretty yarn comprises 63% cotton and 37% nylon elastic. This blend makes it brilliant for socks and it knits up into a light, breathable fabric. A 55g (169) skein costs £8.50 from Yarn Box, **07791 639896**, www.yarnbox.co.uk



4 Lino 100

This is a luxurious Italian yarn made of 100% pure linen. It has a chainette construction and comes in nine solid shades. A 50g (100m) ball costs £2.25 from The Little Knitting Company. 07980 439587, www.thelittleknittingcompany.co.uk

5 Cygnet Seriously Chunky Prints

This fun yarn is made of 100% acrylic and comes in a range of six vibrant shades including Rosella shown here. It knits up fast and would be perfect for cushions, scarves and other accessories. A 100g (48m) ball costs £2.69 from The Little Lost Sheep. 01253 351845, www.thelittlelostsheep.co.uk

6 Wendy Happy 4ply

Sock yarns that contain no animal fibre can be a little tricky to find. We love this blend of 75% bamboo and 25% nylon because it's deliciously soft, has a pretty sheen and is easy to care for. Choose from a wide array of shades. It costs £6.60 per 100g (420m) ball from Modern Knitting. 01279 771153, www.modernknitting.co.uk





Dixon, Franklin & Hardy

Keep your little man cosy this winter with a classic **Fair Isle** sweater and scarf plus a stripy hat

Featuring a traditional Scandinavian-style motif, this jumper is sure to be a hit with mum and son alike. The colourwork detail is just around the yoke which not only makes it easier to knit, but prevents it being too busy. The scarf uses the same pattern and is worked in the round so it is reversible. The hat is also knitted in the round so you may want to use the Jogless Jog method to avoid a staggered effect with the stripes. For step-by-step handshots on how to do this, visit www.letsknit.co.uk

Knit WISE

The construction of yoke sweaters

Yokes are very common in Scandinavian-style designs. The body is worked first but you stop before shaping for the armholes. This is often worked in the round but straight needles are used here. The front and back stitches are left on a holder while you work the two sleeves. After these are complete, use a long circular needle and pick up stitches from all the holders, then complete the yoke, adding any neck or shoulder shaping. This leaves you with fewer seams and a lovely shaped garment.

Matching set for
boys aged 2-9

START KNITTING ON P60

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

SMC Select Extra Soft Merino Grande is a pure wool yarn that knits to a standard aran tension and is ideal for children's winterwear. As it is made from natural fibres it has brilliant insulating properties and it is also superwash so is practical too.

Measurements & Sizes

Dixon (sweater)

To fit age (years, approx):

2-4 (4-6) 7-9

Actual chest (cm):

66 (74) 82

To fit chest (cm):

54-56 (58-60) 64-69

Length to yoke (cm):

24 (26) 28

Length to shoulder (cm):

39.5 (43) 47

Sleeve length to armhole (cm):

25 (28) 32

Franklin (scarf): 13cm wide x 130cm long

Hardy (hat): 40 (44, 48) cm circumference

Knit Kit

Yarn: SMC Select Extra Soft Merino Grande, (A) shade 05502 Marine, 9 (10, 11) 50g balls, (B) shade 05591 Heathered Beige, two 50g balls, (C) shade 05588 Malachite, 1 (2, 2) 50g balls

Needles: 5mm straight, 5mm circular 40cm, 60cm, 80cm, 4.5mm double-pointed

Stitch holder

5 stitch markers

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

5mm needles



FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Let's Knit! Shop!



SMC Select Extra Soft Merino Grande costs RRP £4.75 per 50g (80m) ball. Contact Coats Crafts for stockists, 01484 681881, www.coatscrafts.co.uk

START HERE

DIXON Back

Using 5mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on 62 (66, 74) sts

□ Row 1: (k2, p2) to last two sts, k2

□ Row 2: (p2, k2) to last two sts, p2

These two rows set rib

□ Work in rib for 3cm ending on a WS row, working ml 0 (2, 2) times evenly across last row 62 (68, 76) sts

□ Work in st st without shaping until Back meas 24 (26, 28) cm from beg Place sts on a holder

Front

□ Work as for Back

Sleeve (make two)

Using 5mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on 38 sts

□ Work in rib patt for 3cm Work in st st and shape sleeve as folls:

□ Inc one st at each end of every 8th (6th, 6th) row 6 (9, 11) times. 50 (56, 60) sts

□ Cont in st st without shaping until Sleeve meas 25 (28, 32) cm Place sts on a holder

Yoke

Using 80cm circular needle and yarn A k 62 (68, 76) sts from Back holder, k 50 (56, 60) sts from left Sleeve holder, k 50 (56, 60) sts from right Sleeve holder. 224 (248, 272) sts

Join in the rnd

□ Work 3 (5, 10) rnds in st st [k every rnd] **AT THE SAME TIME**, dec 28 (36, 40) sts evenly across Rnd 3 (5, 8). 196 (212, 232) sts

□ Commence Chart working 72 rnds in st st with Fair Isle patt. **AT THE SAME TIME** work decs for yoke as folls:

□ Chart rnd 5: dec 12 (16, 20) sts evenly across rnd. 184 (196, 212) sts

□ Chart rnd 9: dec 16 (16, 20) sts evenly across rnd. 168 (180, 192) sts

Chart key

□ = Yarn B

■ = Yarn A

■ = Yarn C

□ Chart rnd 22: k to end, pm at every sixth st

□ Chart rnd 23: * work to one st before marker, k2tog, rep from * 27 (29, 31) times more. 140 (150, 160) sts

□ Chart rnd 25: work decs as for Chart rnd 23

NOTE: change to shorter circular needles as st count decreases

Change to yarn A and st st, work decs as folls:

□ Rnd 1: work decs as on Chart rnd 23. 84 (90, 96) sts

□ Work 0 (1, 2) rnds without shaping

□ Next rnd: dec 16 (18, 20) sts evenly across rnd. 68 (72, 76) sts

Work should meas 39.5 (43, 47) cm

Change to dpns

□ Next row: (k2, p2) to end

□ Rep last rnd five times more

□ K three rnds

□ Loosely cast off

To make up

Pin pieces to measurements and block with damp towels Sew side and sleeve seams

exclusive
TO LET'S KNIT!

FRANKLIN

Using 4.5mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 48 sts. Join in the rnd

□ Row 1: (k2, p2) to end

This row sets rib

□ Rep Rnd 1 six more times

□ Work three rnds in st st

□ Commence Chart working Rnds 1-27 in st st and Fair Isle patt

□ Cont in st st with yarn A only until work meas 96cm

□ Commence Chart working backwards from Rnds 27-1

□ Work three rnds in st st with yarn A only

□ Work seven rnds in rib

□ Cast off

Press scarf flat and sew ends

HARDY

Using 4.5mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 82 (88) sts. Join in the rnd

□ Work in rib patt as for Franklin for seven rnds

Work in st st stripes as folls:

□ * Two rnds in yarn B

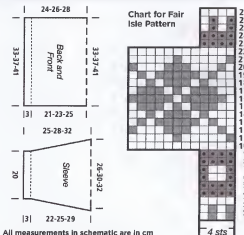
□ Two rnds in yarn C

LK SAYS...



"If you'd prefer the Fair Isle pattern without the squared border or want a plain jumper instead just knit these rounds in stocking stitch"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER



All measurements in schematic are in cm

- Two rnds in yarn B
- Two rnd in yarn A
- Rep from * until 28 st sts rnds have been worked, on last rnd pm on every 9th (10th, 11th) st
- Cont in stripe patt as set
- * work to one st before marker, k2tog, rep from * seven times more. 64 (72, 80) sts
- Rep dec rnd on every foll sixth rnd 3 (4, 5) times, then every foll eighth rnd four times
- Cont in st st until hat meas 34.5 (37, 39) cm
- Cut yarn, thread tail through rem eight sts and pull tight to fasten off. Weave in ends. Use yarn C to make a 5cm pompom and attach to top of hat **LK**

Hardy

Franklin

Dixon



LK LOVES...

This charming set is from the new SMC pattern book Moments 008 Extra Soft Merino Classics. The collection includes a range of patterns for the whole family, each using one of the Extra Soft Merino yarns. For stockists and more details visit www.coatscrafts.co.uk or call 01484 681881.



Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Comprising 75% acrylic and 25% polyamide Cygnet Kiddies Couture DK is the height of practicality. Whenever your little one gets dirty, your finished garment can just be popped into the washing machine. The yarn is smooth and easy to knit with, and comes in four print and four solid shades.

Measurements & Sizes

To fit age (yrs, approx):

1-2 (2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6)

Chest (cm):

53 (56, 60.5, 63.5, 66.5)

Length from shoulder (cm):

28.5 (31.5, 34.5, 38, 43)

Sleeve length (cm):

20.5 (23, 26.5, 28, 33)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Cygnet Kiddies Couture DK, shade 080 Multi stripe, 1 (1, 2, 2, 3) 100g balls

Needles: 4mm

Cable needle

Buttons: four

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles



Special abbreviations

CR3L: cross 3 left – sl next st onto cn, hold at front of work, k2, k1 from cn

CR3R: cross 3 right – sl next two sts onto cn, hold at back of work, k1, k2 from cn

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Bouquet

This colourful cardy was designed by **Anni Howard** for Cygnet and features bright textured stripes

These colours remind us of a bouquet of flowers! Knitting stripes in this many shades would usually leave a lot of ends, but we've got a great solution – use a self-patterning yarn. This cardigan is made in Cygnet Kiddies Couture which has a nice crisp colour change and does the hard work for you, leaving you free to concentrate on the interesting textured pattern. See the Knit wise panel to find out how it's done.



Knit! Shop!

Cygnet Kiddies Couture DK costs £2.69 per 100g (310m) ball from Ball and Needle, 01761 435269, www.ballandneedle.co.uk



LK SAYS...



LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

"If you'd prefer to use your own colour choices, pick solid shades and work them into your own stripe pattern"

Colourful knit for 1-6 yrs old

START HERE

exclusive
TO LK Knit

Back

Using 4mm needles, cast on 74 (78, 84, 88, 92) sts

Commence patt as folls:

□ Row 1 (RS): p3 (0, 3, 0, 2), k8, * p2, k8, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, p3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 2: k3 (0, 3, 0, 2), p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, * k2, p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, k3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 3: p3 (0, 3, 0, 2), k3, sl 2 dropping extra loops, k3, * p2, k3, sl 2 dropping extra loops, k3, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, p3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 4: k3 (0, 3, 0, 2), p3, sl 2, p3, * k2, p3, sl 2, p3, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, k3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 5: p3 (0, 3, 0, 2), k1, CR3R, CR3L, k1, * p2, k1, CR3R, CR3L, k1, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, p3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 6: k3 (0, 3, 0, 2), p8, * k2, p8, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, k3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

These six rows form patt
□ Cont in patt until work meas 19 (21.5, 24, 26.5, 30.5) cm from beg, ending with a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES
□ Keeping patt correct, cast off seven sts at beg of next two rows

□ Dec one st at each end of every row until 48 (52, 54, 58, 62) sts rem
□ Cont without shaping until armholes meas 9.5 (10, 10.5, 11.5, 12.5) cm ending with a WS row

SHAPE SHOULDERS
□ Cast off 4 (5, 5, 6, 6) sts at beg of next two rows then 5

(6, 6, 6, 7) sts at beg of foll two rows
□ Cast off rem 30 (30, 32, 34, 36) sts

Left front

Using 4mm needles, cast on 33 (35, 38, 40, 42) sts
Commence patt as folls:

□ Row 1 (RS): p3 (0, 3, 0, 2),

KEEP KNITTING ON P64

Knit WISE

Which loops to drop

This pattern involves purling stitches and wrapping the yarn around the needle several times when working each stitch. On the following row, just drop the extra wraps and keep the original stitch on the needle. The extra loops should be easy to spot as they will not be connected to the row below. This will leave you with elongated stitches. These larger stitches are slipped again, then crossed to create this interesting stitch pattern.



k8, * p2, k8, rep from * to last 2 (7, 7, 2, 2) sts, p2, k0 (S, S, 0, 0)

□ Row 2: [p1, p1 winding yarn round needle three times, p3] O (1, 1, 0, 0) times, k2, * p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, k2, rep from * to last 11 (8, 11, 8, 10) sts, p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, k3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 3: p3 (0, 3, 0, 2), k3, sl 2 dropping extra loops, k3, * p2, k3, sl 2 dropping extra loops, k3, rep from * to last 2 (7, 7, 2, 2) sts, p2, [k3, sl 1 dropping extra loops, k1] O (1, 1, 0, 0) times

□ Row 4: [p1, sl 1, p3] O (1, 1, 0, 0) times, k2, * p3, sl 2, p3, k2, rep from * to last 11 (8, 11, 8, 10) sts, p3, sl 2, p3, k3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 5: p3 (0, 3, 0, 2), k1, CR3R, CR3L, k1, * p2, k1, CR3R, CR3L, k1, rep from * to last 2 (7, 7, 2, 2) sts, p2, [k1, CR3R, k1] O (1, 1, 0, 0) times

□ Row 6: p0 (S, S, 0, 0) k2, * p8, k2, rep from * to last 11 (8, 11, 8, 10) sts, p8, k3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

These six rows form patt
□ Cont in patt until Front meas same as Back to armholes, ending with a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLE AND NECK

□ Next row: cast off seven sts, patt to last two sts, k2tog

□ Work one row

NOTE: omit prev row for Right front

□ Dec one st at armhole edge on every row **AT THE SAME TIME** dec one st at neck edge on the next and every foll alt row until 16 (18, 18, 20, 22) sts rem

□ Keeping armhole edge straight, dec one st at neck edge on every foll alt row from prev dec until 9 (11, 12, 13) sts rem

□ Cont without shaping until Front meas same as Back to shoulder shaping, ending at armhole edge

SHAPE SHOULDER

□ Cast off 4 (S, S, 6, 6) sts at beg of next row, then rem 5 (6, 6, 6, 7) sts at beg of foll alt row

Right front

Using 4mm needles, cast on 33 (35, 38, 40, 42) sts

Commence patt as folls:

□ Row 1 (RS): k0 (S, S, 0, 0), * p2, k8, rep from * to last 3 (0, 3, 0, 2) sts, p3 (0, 3, 0, 2)

□ Row 2: k3 (0, 3, 0, 2), p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, * k2, p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, rep from * to last 2 (7, 7, 2, 2) sts, k2, [p3, p1 winding yarn round needle three times, p1] O (1, 1, 0, 0) times

□ Cont in six row patt as set until work meas same as Back to armholes, ending with a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLE AND NECK

□ Next row: dec one st, patt to end

□ Next row: cast off seven sts, patt to end

□ Complete as given for Left front omitting row as instructed prior to commencing neck shaping

Sleeves

Using 4mm needles, cast on 46 (48, 50, 54, 58) sts

Commence patt as folls:

□ Row 1 (RS): p4 (S, 1, 3, 0), k8, * p2, k8, rep from * to last 4 (5, 1, 3, 0) sts, p4 (S, 1, 3, 0)

□ Row 2: k4 (S, 1, 3, 0), p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, * k2, p3, [p1 winding yarn round needle three times] twice, p3, rep from * to last 4 (5, 1, 3, 0) sts, k4 (S, 1, 3, 0)

□ Cont in six row patt as set until Sleeve meas 20.5 (23, 26.5, 28, 33) cm from beg ending with a WS row

SHAPE TOP

□ Keeping patt correct, cast off seven sts at beg of next two rows

□ Dec one st at each end of next and every foll alt row until 14 (14, 14, 24, 28) sts rem, then on every row until 6 (8, 8, 10, 10) sts rem

□ Cast off rem 6 (8, 8, 10, 10) sts

Buttonhole band

Using 4mm needles, and with RS of Left front facing, pick up and k 24 (26, 28, 30,



34) sts down neck shaping and 44 (50, 56, 62, 70) sts to lower edge. 68 (76, 84, 92, 104) sts

□ Row 1 (WS): * p1, k1, rep from * to end This row sets rib

□ Work four rows more in rib

□ Buttonhole row: rib 25 (27, 29, 31, 37), k2tog, yfwd, [rib 10 (12, 14, 16, 18), k2tog, yfwd] three times, rib to end

□ Work four rows more in rib

□ Cast off in rib

Join right shoulder seam

Button band

□ Using 4mm needles, and with RS of Right front facing,

pick up and k 44 (50, 56, 62, 70) sts up front to start of Front shaping, 24 (26, 28, 30, 34) sts to shoulder and 24 (26, 28, 30) sts across back neck. 92 (100, 110, 120, 134) sts

□ Row 1 (WS): * p1, k1, rep from * to end

□ Work nine rows more in rib

□ Cast off

To make up

Join left shoulder seam Join side and sleeve seams Sew in sleeves Sew on buttons **LK**

Pampers

Jane Burns' adorable soakers with their humorous motif make a great gift for a new mum

Whether you smile or groan at our knitted pun, you can't deny that these soakers are an eye-catching addition to baby's wardrobe. They are knitted in soft pure merino yarns that have been treated to make them machine washable. There are two versions to choose from, the cream colourway is ideal for little boys, while Version two, the pink soakers feature a pretty mock picot edging around the leg cuffs.

Version two

Version one

CROCHET A CHAIN
check out the video at
WWW.LETSKNIT.CO.UK

START KNITTING ON P68

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

Rico Essentials Merino DK is a soft and smooth pure wool that comes in a brilliant rainbow of 36 shades. James C Brett Pure Merino DK is also made from 100% wool and has a more muted palette of colours to choose from. Both yarns are machine washable.

Measurements & Sizes

To fit (mths, approx): 3-6 (6-18)
Width (cm): 45 (49)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Version one: Rico Essentials Merino DK, (A) shade 60 Natural, two 50g balls; (B) shade 24 Grey, one 50g ball; Version two: James C Brett Pure Merino DK, (A) shade PM15 Raspberry, two 50g balls; (B) shade PM4 White, one 50g ball

Needles: First size only: 3mm double-pointed, 3mm straight, Both sizes: 3.5mm straight, Second size only: 3.5mm double-pointed, 4mm straight

Crochet hook: 3mm

TENSION SQUARE 1 TENSION SQUARE 2

10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
3.5mm needles



Need an alternative yarn?

For a baby item like this it is really useful to have a yarn that is user-friendly. Sirdar Snuggly DK is can be machine washed and tumble dried. There are 50 shades available and you can choose any combos you like.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

START HERE

VERSION ONE (cream)

NOTE: for second size follow same instructions but use needle size given in brackets

Back

Using 3.5mm (4mm) straight needles and yarn A cast on 17 sts

- Row 1: k
- Row 2: cast on five sts, p to end
- Row 3: cast on five sts, k5, sl 1, k1, pssso, k13, k2tog, k5, 25 sts
- Row 4: cast on five sts, p to end
- Row 5: cast on five sts, k10, sl 1, k1, pssso, k11, k2tog, k10, 33 sts
- Row 6: cast on seven sts, p to end
- Row 7: cast on seven sts, k17, sl 1, k1, pssso, k9, k2tog, k17, 45 sts
- Row 8: cast on seven sts, p to end, 52 sts
- Row 9: cast on seven sts, k24, sl 1, k1, pssso, k7, k2tog, k24, 57 sts
- Row 10: cast on three sts, p to end, 60 sts
- Row 11: cast on three sts, k27, sl 1, k1, pssso, k5, k2tog, k27, 61 sts
- Row 12: p
- Row 13: k27, sl 1, k1, pssso, k3, k2tog, k27, 59 sts
- Row 14: p
- Row 15: k27, sl 1, k1, pssso, k1, k2tog, k27, 57 sts
- Row 16: p
- Row 17: k27, sl 1, k1, pssso, k2tog, k26, 55 sts
- Row 18: p26, p2tog, p27, 54 sts
- Work six rows in st st Beg working from Chart, positioning motif as folls:
- Work 15 sts in yarn A, work Chart Row 1, work



LK SAYS...



"If you'd prefer the back of these soakers to be slogan-free, just work the 16 Chart rows in yarn A only"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

14 sts in yarn A

- Cont in this way keeping st st correct until all 16 rows of Chart are complete
- Using yarn A only, work 12 more rows in st st
- Change to 3mm (3.5mm) needles
- Row 1: * k2, p2, rep from * to last two sts, k2
- Row 2: * p2, k2, rep from * to last two sts, p2
- Rows 3-4: rep Rows 1 and 2
- Row 5: rep Row 1
- Row 6: * p2, k2tog, ym,

rep from * to last two sts, p2

- Rep Rows 1 and 2 twice more
- Cast off loosely

Front

- Work as for Back omitting Chart and working in yarn A throughout

To make up

Join side seams and gusset using mattress stitch (see p90)

Leg cuffs

- Using 3mm (3.5mm) dpns and yarn A pick and k 56 sts evenly around each leg
- Rnd 1: k
- Rnds 2-10: * k2, p2, rep from * to end
- Cast off very loosely

Waistband cord

- Using a 3mm crochet hook and yarn A, crochet a 65cm chain
- Thread cord through eyelets

Knit! Shop!

Rico Essentials Merino DK costs £3.49 per 50g (120m) ball from Crafty Yarn, 01793 855535, www.crafty-yarn.co.uk



James C Brett Pure Merino DK costs £3.79 per 50g (124m) ball from Purplelinda Crafts, www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Sirdar Snuggly DK costs £3.05 per 50g (165m) ball from Little Lamb Wool, 01653 628896, www.littlelambwool.co.uk



VERSION TWO (pink)

NOTE: for second size follow same instructions but use needle size given in brackets

□ Work as for Version One apart from Leg cuffs. Work these as follows

Leg cuffs

- Using 3mm (3.5mm) dpns and yarn A, pick up and k 56 sts evenly around each leg. Join in rnd
 - Rnd 1: k
 - Rnds 2-5: * k1, p1, rep from * to end
 - Rnd 6: k
 - Rnd 7: * k1, kfb, rep from * to end. B4 sts
 - Rnds 8-11: k
 - Rnd 12: * k2tog, yfwd, rep from * to end
 - Rnds 13-16: k
 - Cast off
- Fold at eyelet round and sew in place to form a picot edge **LK**

KnitWISE

Mock picot edging

Version two of these cute soakers features a mock picot edging around the leg cuffs. Work a row of eyelets a few rows before the end of your piece, then cast off as normal. When sewing up, just fold this edge under at the eyelet row and stitch in place. This will give you the effect of a picot edge.

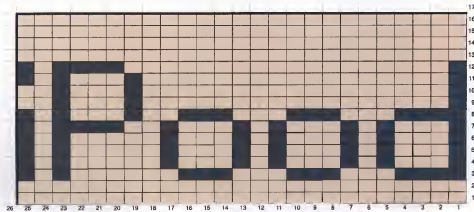
Key



Yarn A



Yarn B



Crafty Yarn

Yarns, needles, books and accessories from all your famous brands.

Help and advice given too!

Visit our shop

Unit 42, Studley Grange Craft Village

Hay Lane, Wroughton, Swindon SN4 9QT

01793 855535

Or shop online at

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Order online or by phone on 0207 226 0800

 Follow us on twitter



The Knitting Shop
www.theknittingshop.co.uk

Knit Knowledge

About the Yarn

James C Brett Pure Merino DK is made of 100% merino and comes in a range of solid shades. It can be machine washed and tumble dried on a low heat.

Measurements & Sizes

Length: 35cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: James C Brett Pure Merino DK, (A) shade PM14 (Lilac), (B) shade PM3 (Plum), (C) shade PM7 (Cream), (D) shade PM11 (Brown), one 50g ball of each

Needles: 4mm

Darning needle

Iron-on motifs: teddy, cat and sheep

Beads: flowers, two

Felt scraps: white, light pink, dark pink and grey

Safety toy stuffing: 75g

Small hair ties, two

TENSION SQUARE

10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles



Need an alternative yarn?

You only need one ball of each shade for Matilda so why not use DK yarn from your stash? If you'd like to make a slightly bigger doll, use aran-weight yarn and the appropriate-sized needles.

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Let's Knit! Shop!



James C Brett Pure Merino DK costs £4.49 per 50g (124m) ball from Deramores, 0845 519 4573, www.deramores.com

Matilda

Our simple doll by **Jane Burns** makes a great gift

Amazingly, our little Matilda doll by Jane Burns involves no shaping at all. It is knitted entirely in stocking stitch rectangles which are then stuffed and gathered to form the body shape. Go wild with a vivid outfit or follow the beautiful purple shades we've chosen. If you're making this for a child under three, omit the iron-on motifs, beads and hair bands and embroider the facial details instead for extra safety.

exclusive
DESIGN BY JANE BURNS

START HERE

Body

NOTE: head, sweater and pants are worked in one piece. Work in st st throughout unless stated

PANTS

Using 4mm needles and yarn A cast on 28 sts
□ Work 12 rows

SWEATER

Join in yarn B
□ * Work two rows in yarn B
□ Work two rows in yarn A *
□ Rep from * to * six times
□ Work two rows in yarn A

HEAD

Change to yarn C
□ Work two rows, pm
□ Work 24 rows
Leave a long tail of yarn and thread this through a darning needle. Thread needle through each st on LH needle, dropping them as you go and pull tight to gather and form top of head. Sew a few sts to hold gather in place. Sew up back seam, ensuring stripes match. Lightly stuff body, use matching yarn to sew up bottom of pants

NECK

Using yarn C thread a darning needle and work a running st around row on which marker was placed. Pull tightly, forming neck. Apply a second round of sts and secure

Legs (both alike)

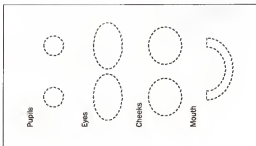
Using yarn C cast on 14 sts
□ Work 42 rows
Change to yarn B
□ Work 16 rows
Leave a long tail of yarn and thread this through darning



needle, thread needle through each st on LH needle, dropping them as you go and pull tight to gather to form toe of shoe. Sew a few sts to secure. Sew up shoe and leg seam and stuff lightly. Pin each leg onto pants and sew in place

Arms (both alike)

Using 4mm needles and yarn A cast on ten sts
□ Work four rows
Join in yarn B
□ * Work two rows in yarn B
□ Work two rows in yarn A *
□ Rep from * to * five times
Change to yarn C



Knit WISE

Toy tips

For lots of great advice about making up toys, see designer Val Pierce's helpful hints on page 72.

Work six rows

Leave a long tail and draw through sts pulling tight to close and form hand. Sew up length of arm and attach to side of body without stuffing

Skirt

Using 4mm needles and yarn A cast on 50 sts

- Rows 1-5: k
- Work 24 rows
- Cast off

NOTE: cast-off edge is skirt waistband

Sew back seam of skirt using mattress st (p89) and sew in place

Pinny front

Using 4mm needles and yarn A cast on 13 sts

- Work 20 rows
- Cast off

Place cast-on edge against waistband of Skirt and sew in place

Hair

Cut approx 70-80cm strands of yarn D. Lay hair across top of head and use back stitch to sew strands in place. Gather hair into two bunches and secure with hairbands

Face

Using template cut out felt eyes, cheeks and mouth and apply to face using fabric glue or sew in place for small children. Apply badges and motifs as shown in photo **LK**

LK SAYS...

"I love Matilda's bushy bunches and cute stripy top. To personalise her why not let the recipient choose their favourite colours before you start?"



LK EDITORIAL ASSISTANT ELAINE BENNETT



PURL DEMO
check out the video at
WWW.LETSKNIT.CO.UK

Toy Story PART 2

LK designer **Val Pierce** continues her tutorial on how to make sure your knitted toy is loved for years to come

Last issue we brought you the first part of our toy-making tutorial and discussed the design of the toy, the choice of yarns, and how to go about sewing together your creation. We also looked at stuffing to get the perfect shape and a few tricky areas concerning the head of your toy. In our final installment, Val Pierce shows us how to attach the body parts and embroider cute facial expressions to make your loveable character a true family favourite.

WE'VE USED VAL'S ALFIE PUP FROM ISSUE 44
AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THIS TUTORIAL.

BUY BACK ISSUES BY CALLING 0844 844 0947

ATTACHING ARMS AND LEGS

Before stitching the arms and legs to a toy, check that they are stuffed equally and the same size and shape. Pin the limbs into position on the body before you sew them in place. Try to get equal distances between the pieces, and check whether your toy needs to be sitting or standing as this will affect the positioning of the legs. If you have left a long tail when casting off the pieces, you can use this for joining them together. This eliminates the need to weave in the ends and provides a firm anchor for sewing up. Using matching yarn (we have used blue for illustrative purposes) and a blunt-ended tapestry needle, sew the limbs onto the body very firmly, taking a stitch on the limb and then a stitch on the body alternately until you have sewn it firmly in place. Go over the same area twice if you feel the join is not quite firm enough.

Pin the arm in place

Sew one stitch from arm and one stitch from body alternately



Loosely tack the head in position

Sew one stitch from body and one from head

SHAPING THE HEAD

Very often the head will appear to wobble when sewn in place, and it can feel like no matter how hard you try the head never seems to be firm. This is a result of the head and body not being equally stuffed - if the head is too heavy it will not sit correctly. You can always add a little more stuffing to a piece by opening a tiny part of the seam, and you can remove stuffing in the same way. To sew a head to a body tack it in place with a few stitches placed around the neck edge. This will hold it steady whilst you then begin to sew the two pieces more firmly. Constantly check that the head is in the correct position. Mostly it will be facing front and straight, but it is possible to angle the head very slightly to give a cute look.

Facial features

Features can make or break your toy and take much practice to get looking just right. Always try out techniques on a test swatch before you begin. Look closely at the picture of the face you are going to copy, note the placing of the eyes, nose and mouth and put markers on the toys face to identify where they should be worked. If you are using toy safety eyes they will need to be fitted when you have partially stuffed the head. Take extra care when placing them as once they are locked in place they cannot be repositioned. Remember, you need to both hear and feel the eye pieces click together as they slot into place, otherwise they will not be secure.

EMBROIDERY

There are many ways of adding embroidered features. Practice is the only way to achieve good results and patience is needed too. If you do it wrong, unpick and start again, you will be glad you did when you see your finished toy.

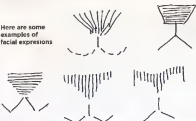


SATIN STITCH

Most noses for teddy bears and bigger animals can be worked using satin stitch, which is where lots of straight stitches are placed closely together to look like a solid area.

How to do it: using wool or embroidery thread and a blunt ended needle, sew a line at a time, working each consecutive line close beside the one just worked. Work slowly and evenly to achieve a good result - pulling too tightly will result in puckered fabric and an odd-shaped nose.

Here are some examples of facial expressions



FRENCH KNOTS

Eyes can be embroidered using French knots, working from side to side and pulling each eye as you work, which helps to shape the head. French knots can also be used to depict a nose. Just the right amount of tension is required for this technique and this will come with practice.



1 Making French knots: bring the yarn needle out to the RS of the work, working close to the fabric, wrap the yarn around the needle three times.

2 Holding the yarn from the wraps firmly against the fabric, take the needle back through the work, pulling it through the wraps.



VAL'S LAST WORD



take time and patience with stuffing, sewing up, and the facial embroidery - you want to make sure your finished masterpiece is going to give many years of pleasure and hugs to the lucky recipient.

- After spending many hours knitting up the pieces to make your project,
- Safety is paramount so make sure that you take every care to ensure that your toy is going to be able to withstand the pulling and tugging and general wear and tear of playtime.
- Double check all your seams, give them a hard tug, the same applies to limbs and heads.
- Use washable safety stuffing.
- The younger the child, the more basic the toy needs to be - use patterning or cables to add interest, but avoid buttons and ribbons.

SPONSORED BY

KnitPro™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO KNIT

KnitPro needles are well suited to a range of projects and come in straight, double-pointed and interchangeable circular varieties. These multi-coloured wooden Symfonie needles are one of KnitPro's most recognisable designs. They feature long sharp points and are smooth, light and easy to knit with. Rosewood, acrylic and metal needles are also available. Find out more at www.knitpro.eu



Look after YOU



Knitting may seem like a gentle hobby but it can take its toll on your body if you're not careful. **Elaine Bennett** rounds up products and advice that should keep you feeling ship-shape and able to enjoy your favourite pastime

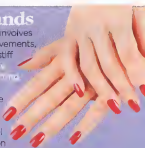


your... hands

Because knitting involves many small, repeated movements, stitchers can face achey, stiff hands and wrists. **Handmade Fixation** (Massachusetts Knitting

Gloves (below left) have been designed to alleviate this pain and are also great for anyone who suffers from Carpal tunnel syndrome, poor circulation or arthritis (£1765, 01279 771153, www.modernknitting.co.uk).

Knitting **Gloves** (below right) have been designed by an orthopedic surgeon especially for crafters. The open fingertips allow you to maintain a full range of movement whilst supporting your hands (£14.95, 0121 702 2840, www.cottonpatch.co.uk).



TOP TIPS

- ✓ Use circular needles when knitting large projects to take the weight off your wrists; propping your arms and wrists on cushions can also help to distribute the weight
- ✓ Don't overdo it! If you feel any tingling or aching don't just ignore it. Take a break from your project for a few days to prevent causing long-term damage
- ✓ Try using **Kollage Square Needles** which are ergonomically designed to decrease hand stress and strain (£10 for pack of five dpns, 07791 639896, www.yarnbox.co.uk)





♥ your... skin

Daily exposure to harsh detergents and cold weather can take its toll on a knitter's hands, causing them to become rough. Whilst one solution is to slather on your normal handcream, this can be greasy and may rub off onto your project. Shepherd's Choice Secret Stash Knitter's Handcream (right) has a refreshing scent and a special light and non-greasy formula that is absorbed fast (£5.99, 0117 300 5211, www.getknitted.com). Handling soft, silky yarns when your hands are rough can cause the yarn to snag. DermaGuard Skin Protector (left) is a hypoallergenic moisturiser with a non-greasy formula that helps to repair damaged skin (prices range from £3.25 - £11.80 depending on size, 01745 584049, www.dermaguard.com)



♥ your... eyes

Looking after your eyesight is vital for crafters of all ages. Good lighting is an essential part of this. According to the charity Royal National Institute of Blind People, most people aged 60 need three times more light than when they were 20 and one excellent way of ensuring that your knitting is well-lit is by using a task lamp. The PURElite Three in One Magnifying Lamp can be used as a floor lamp, a table lamp or it can be clipped onto your work surface. It contains 21 high-power daylight-effect LEDs and can be operated with either batteries or a mains adapter (RRP £80, 01453 883581, crafts@stockistenquiries.co.uk).
TURN TO PAGE 79 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE!



It's really important to try and maintain good posture when sitting and knitting. It can be all too easy to hunch over your work and this can be detrimental in the long-term. Betsan Corkhill from knitting therapy website Stitchlinks suggests the following tips:

- 1 Don't knit whilst sitting on a low sofa, this encourages you to slouch
- 2 Sit with the base of your spine against the back of the chair
- 3 Keep your feet flat on the floor and your shoulders back
- 4 Try and keep your arms, shoulders and jaw relaxed
- 5 Every thirty minutes get up and walk around, have a stretch and focus on a distant object

For lots more information about looking after your health whilst knitting, visit www.stitchlinks.com

and finally...

These last two choices aren't vital for your health or wellbeing, but they'll certainly make you smile!

This Special Edition Polka Dot Dunk Mug comes complete with a special compartment for you to keep your biscuits in so you'll never get crumbs in your knitting again (£17.99, 0845 259 1359, www.notonthehighstreet.com).



Find that your feet get frosty after sitting still and knitting for a while? These Aroma Home Rosebud Feet Warmers contain heat pads that can be popped in the microwave (£27.95, 0844 2495 007, www.prezzybox.com).

Infused with rose, neroli and lavender, they need warming for two minutes and can then be slipped back inside the slipper to help keep you lovely and toasty - bliss!



♥ your... back



Hooky Help

About the Yarn

Rowan Siena is a mercerised cotton yarn that is ideal for crochet. It is smooth and easy to work with and has great stitch definition. Although the yarn is machine washable, we recommend carefully washing Natasha by hand due to the bead embellishments.

Measurements & Sizes

Length: 40cm

Small snowflakes: 3.5cm diameter

Large snowflake: 5cm diameter

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Siena, shade 678 Vindaloo, one 50g ball

Crochet hook: 2.5mm

Button: one small

Beads: Size 6/0 seed beads x 23

Stitch holder

Need an alternative yarn?

Patons 100% Cotton 4ply has a very similar finish to the featured yarn as it is also a mercerised cotton. Although there is not a teal colourway available, there are lots of other blue and green shades which would work equally well.

Special abbreviations

bd: slide bead along yarn so it sits on RS of fabric, insert hook through next st, yoh, pull through st, yoh, pull through both loops on hook, securing bead in place

NOTE: beads are placed on WS row

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 86

Knit! Shop!



Rowan Siena costs £4.95 per 50g (140m) ball from Deramores, 0845 519 4573, www.deramores.com

Patons 100% Cotton 4ply costs £3.90 per 100g (330m) ball from Purplelinda Crafts, www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

Size 6/0 Seed Beads cost £1.99 per 18g pack from Bead Shop Scotland, 01620 822886, www.beadshopsotland.co.uk

Natasha

Chokers are the current necklace of choice for the celebs so we've brought you a stunning crocheted design from **Sarah Hazell**

Striking chokers are a great way to balance strapless or low-cut party frocks and bring instant glam to your outfit. This beautiful creation is by Sarah Hazell and features a range of crochet techniques including double crochet, placing beads, clusters and working in the round. We've opted for dark beads against the dark yarn but you could always choose more contrasting colours or even clear beads for a really subtle gleam. Check out our new crochet videos at www.letsknit.co.uk

START HERE

Neckband

Thread 23 beads onto yarn (see Crochet Clever panel) Using 2.5mm hook, make 106ch

□ Foundation row (WS): 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in every ch to end, turn, 105dc

□ Row 1 (RS): 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc in every dc to end of row, turn

eXclusive
to the knit

LK SAYS...



"If you want this choker tighter or looser around the neck, work more or fewer chains - remember to keep the edging central"

LK DEPUTY EDITOR ADRIENNE CHANDLER

Perfect for
Christmas
parties



Crochet CLEVER

Threading beads onto yarn

One way to add beads to your knitting or crochet is to place them as you work. Before you begin you will need to thread the beads onto your yarn. To do this, thread a regular embroidery needle with sewing cotton and knot to create a small loop. Insert the tail of your yarn through this loop and fold over the end. Now slide the beads onto the needle and push them down over the cotton and onto the yarn. You can use the same method for adding sequins.

□ Row 2: 1ch, 1dc in each of next 30dc, (1lode, 1dc) 22 times, 1ode, 1dc in every rem dc to end of row, turn

□ Row 3: as Row 1

Do not fasten off, but slip last st onto a holder leaving a tail approx 50cm

With RS facing rejoin yarn to stitch 33 of Foundation row

□ Edging row: 3ch (counts as one tr), (1tr, 1ch, 2tr) into same st, * miss three sts, (2tr, 1ch, 2tr) into next st, rep from * nine times. 11 clusters

□ Fasten off

Large motif

Using 2.5mm hook make

5ch, join with a sl st to form a ring

□ Rnd 1 (RS): 1ch, (2dc into ring, 3ch) six times, join with sl st to first dc. Six 3-ch sp

□ Rnd 2: sl st in next dc, 1ch, * (2dc, 3ch, 2dc) in next 3-ch sp, rep from * five times, join with sl st to first dc

□ Rnd 3: 1ch, * (1dc, 3ch, 1dc, 5ch, 1dc, 3ch, 1dc) in next 3-ch sp, 2ch, rep from * five times, join with sl st to first dc

□ Fasten off

Small motif

(make two)

□ Work as for Large motif omitting Rnd 3

To make up

Weave in any loose ends and press lightly. Slip stitch large motif to centre point of edging and smaller motifs to third and ninth edging clusters. Sew button to end not on holder. Remove stitch from holder and insert hook. Work enough chains to fasten around button. Join with sl st to edge of neckband. Weave in any further loose ends **LK**



Top from a selection at Monsoon

LEARN TO CROCHET
check out the videos at
WWW.LETSKNIT.CO.UK

Turn the tables



Keep these pages handy to guide you on your way

UK	US	GAUGE OVER 10CM	AVERAGE NEEDLE SIZE
2ply/Lace	Baby	30 – 32 sts	2.25mm – 2.75mm
3ply	Fingering	27 – 30 sts	2.75mm – 3.25mm
4ply	Sportweight	23 – 26 sts	3.25mm – 3.75mm
Double Knitting (DK)	Worsted	21 – 24 sts	3.75mm – 4.5mm
Aran	Fisherman/ Medium	16 – 20 sts	4.5mm – 5.5mm
Chunky	Bulky	12 – 15 sts	5.5mm – 8mm
Super Chunky	Super Bulky	6 – 11sts	8mm or larger

NEEDLE SIZING

UK (mm)	U.S.A.	Old UK/ Canada
2	0	14
2.25	1	13
2.75	2	12
3	-	11
3.25	3	10
3.5	4	-
3.75	5	9
4	6	8
4.5	7	7
5	8	6
5.5	9	5
6	10	4
6.5	10 1/2	3
7	-	2
7.5	-	1
8	11	0
9	13	00
10	15	000
12	17	-
15	-	-
16	19	-
19	35	-
20	36	-
25	50	-

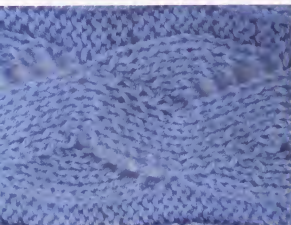
"Using the correct size of needles for the yarn weight helps to produce a taut, neat fabric"

Step on to the scales

Just like tension, the weight of yarn can greatly affect the outcome of your work – which is especially disorientating when, as with needle sizing, yarn weights differ from country to country. The handy guide above should sort out any confusion.

Abbreviations

0	no stitches, times or rows				
-	no stitches, times or rows for that size				
alt	alternate	m1p	picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into back of it		
approx	approximately		making up the horizontal loop before next stitch and purling into back of it	st(s)	stitch(es)
beg	beginning	meas	measure(s)	st st	stocking stitch (RS row k, WS row p)
bet	between	mm	millimetres	tbl	through the back of the loop(s)
ch	chain stitch	NI (2,3)	needle 1 (2,3)	tr	treble crochet
ch sp	chain space	p	purl	WS	wrong side
circ	circular needles	pb	place bead	wyib	with yarn in back
cm	centimetres	pm	place marker	wyif	with yarn in front
cn	cable needle	p2tog	purl two sts together	yb	yarn back
cont	continue (ing)	prev	previous	yfwd	yarn forward (between knit sts)
dc	double crochet	psso	pass slipped stitch over	yoh	yarn over hook
dec	decrease (ing)	pwise	purlwise	yon	yarn over needle (between a purl and a knit st)
dpm	double pointed needles	rem	remain (ing)	yrn	yarn round the needle
dtr	double treble crochet	rep	repeat (ing)		work instructions inside the brackets as many times as instructed
foli	following	rev st st	reverse stocking stitch		
htr	half treble crochet	RS	right side		
inc	increase (ing)	skpo	slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over		
k	knit	sl 1	slip one stitch		
kfb	knit into the front and back of the next stitch	sl st	slip stitch		
k2tog	knit two sts together	sek	one by one, slip the next two stitches knitwise. Put		
kwise	knitwise				
lp	loop				
m1	make one stitch, by				



Essential info

Everything you need to start knitting now!

Tension *headache*

The tension square is a rather dull, yet essential part of the knitting process. Usually made up of a 10cm square of the stitch pattern used in your project, it demonstrates your gauge (the amount of stitches and rows per cm that your knitting equates to). Getting your gauge correct to the pattern's specifications is crucial to creating well-fitted garments.

■ If you knit to a larger gauge than the pattern calls for (for example, if the tension is 24 stitches to 10cm but your 24 knitted stitches measure 11cm) this will be multiplied across your garment and the finished item will be bigger than it should be – and vice versa if your square comes up smaller.

■ To create your tension square, cast on the number of stitches specified plus six more, using the yarn and needles recommended in your pattern. Make sure the stitches are not too tight or too loose. Knit until your work measures 14cm long using stocking stitch unless another stitch is specified. Knit the first and last two stitches on every row to

prevent curling, then cast off. Now comes the important part – measuring your stitches.

■ On the right side each stitch is signified by one complete 'V' shape in your work. Lay a ruler horizontally and use marker pins to indicate 10cm and count the stitches, including half stitches. Do the same with the rows. Now compare this to the recommended tension given in the pattern. If there are too many stitches, your gauge is too tight – switch to a larger set of needles and try again. Similarly, if there are too few stitches, your gauge is too loose – try with smaller size needles.

■ Laundering your finished swatch in the same way you would your finished item is also a good idea – it will demonstrate what will happen to it once it is washed. Will it shrink? Will the colours bleed? Will it soften? This shows how best to care for your items once they are completed.



SUBSTITUTION

Just because we've given the names of the yarn we used to make our projects, doesn't mean you have to use the same – you can always replace it for one you favour more, or one that is more in your price range. However, yarn substituting can be a tricky business, so follow the handy hints below to ensure you end up with the gorgeous garment you desire.

■ Make sure that you can knit your potential stand-in yarn to the gauge specified in the pattern. It's no good trying to substitute a lace weight yarn for your favourite chunky – it simply won't knit up to the same gauge and as such, will be completely the wrong size when finished. So remember – always knit a tension square!

■ The above considered, potential substitutes can be found in differing yarn weights – the needles you use can be

increased or decreased to achieve varying gauges. However, it's always easier to stick to a similar weight.

■ Make sure that the yarn you decide to use has a similar feel to the one given in the pattern – for example, if the project is a soft, silky cardigan, it's probably best not to use a scratchy, coarse acrylic.

■ Check that the yarn you wish to use isn't discontinued – or, if it is, ensure you buy enough to create the whole project. There's nothing worse than getting towards the end of your pattern, only to discover that you don't have enough materials to finish it.

■ It seems like an obvious point, but if your project will need to be washed often, ensure that the substitute yarn is water-safe (also known as 'superwash' or 'easycare'). If not, your project will felt and shrink beyond recognition.

Know your *yarn*

The ball band holds vital info about the way the yarn needs to be cared for, here's our guide to translating it:

1 Yarn identity

This is where you'll find the name and brand.

2 Fibre content

Understanding what the yarn is made up of will also be key to knowing how best to care for it. Yarns can be made from a range of different types of fibres, some are man-made and others are natural. The more common natural fibres are cotton, wool and silk, with mohair, angora and alpaca gaining in popularity. Man-made fibres include acrylic, rayon and nylon.

3 Colour details

The colour details are represented in both a shade name or code and a dye lot number. When working projects be sure to select the same dye lot number, to ensure that the colour is even throughout the piece. This will also indicate if it is hand dyed and whether it should be washed separately.



4 Washing directions

This will tell you how you to launder the finished item – whether it should be hand or machine washed. If you are using a combination of yarns to check the care instructions for all of them.

A garment knitted from our sample yarn must be hand washed, cannot be bleached and should be dried flat.

Start right

Learn to knit today with these clear guides



Knitty SOS

If you're baffled by a new stitch or technique then take a look at our knitting video demos at www.letsknit.co.uk

Cast on

Casting on is the basis of all knitting. There are several different ways to do it, but the two-needle method shown below is often considered the simplest to master.



1 Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle.



2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle.



3 Repeat the above steps, knitting into the top stitch on the left needle and returning the new stitches from the right to the left needle until you have the required number of stitches.

Knit stitch

Similar to the cast on method (above), the knit stitch is the staple of all knitting (hence the name). Shown below is the English knitting style.



1 Once cast on, insert the tip of the right needle upwards and from front to back into the top stitch on the left needle. The right hand needle should sit behind the left hand one. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the tip of the right hand needle.



2 Using the right hand needle, pull a loop of the wrapped yarn through the original stitch to create a new one on the right hand needle.



3 Slide the original stitch off the left hand needle. Repeat from step one. You are now knitting! The knit stitch can be combined with other stitches to create hundreds of different stitch patterns.

Making a slip knot



1 Holding the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, and pull the second loop under the first.



2 Remove the two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

Cable cast on



Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle



2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle



3 Insert the right needle between the two stitches on the left needle and wrap the yarn around the needle tip anticlockwise. Draw this loop through to make a stitch and slip it up and into the left needle. Repeat this creating a new loop behind the last stitch and passing it left needle in front of the previous one

Purl stitch



1 With the ball end of the yarn at the front (toward you) insert the tip of the right hand needle into the front loop of the first stitch from the right to left and with the right hand needle in front of the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of the yarn anticlockwise around the right hand needle.



2 Draw the needle backwards and upwards, forming a new stitch on the right hand needle



3 Once the new stitch has been formed on the right hand needle you can let the loop from the left needle slide off the end. Repeat until all the stitches have been purl and you have complete the row.

Graft the toe



Kitchener Stitch is the method used to achieve this. It is worked as follows:

SET UP: Before starting you need to prepare the stitches on the needle. Hold the two needles with the remaining stitches parallel. The loose end of yarn should be coming from the back needle and lying to the right of the work

1 Thread yarn end onto a tapestry needle and insert it purllwise into the first stitch on the needle closest to you. Pull the yarn through but leave the stitch on the needle



2 Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the back needle and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle



3 Having set up as shown in steps 1 and 2, repeat steps 3 and 4 until all stitches have been grafted. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the front needle and slide the stitch off. Before you pull the yarn through this stitch insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the front needle purllwise and pull the yarn through, this time leaving the stitch on the needle



4 Insert the tapestry needle purllwise into the first stitch on the back needle and slide it off. Before pulling the yarn through this stitch, insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the back needle knitwise and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle



p28

Helping hand

If you need a refresher on basic knitting techniques, visit our website, www.letsknit.co.uk. You'll also find the following step-by-step instructions in the magazine

skipo: El Dorado, p20

yarn forward:

Ruby & Rosa, p28

k2tog: Tremendous, p33

french knots:

Toy Story part 2, p72



p33

Final stages

Finish your project like a pro with these handy guides

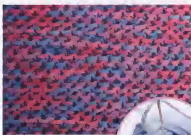
On the blocks

Blocking is the process of stretching and shaping your finished items to create the correct dimensions from the pattern. It is also really useful for ensuring that pieces to be joined fit well together. There are a few different ways to achieve this, so check the information on the yarn ball band and pick the most suitable option.

Wet blocking

Dampen the pieces so that they are wet through and gently push out excess water. Spread the sections out on a towel to air dry. Use a tape measure to ensure each part is the correct dimensions to that of the pattern and pin into the required shape.

For a more gentle option, try pinning it in place and lightly spritzing with a water spray. This is ideal for really delicate materials like cashmere which can be damaged by too much water.



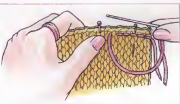
Steam iron blocking

Place a dampened cloth on top of the separate sections of your knitting. Work gently over this with a very hot iron, be careful not to let the iron come into direct contact with the knitting as it can damage the work. Continue to press the work until the cloth is dry and the knitted fibres have been loosened by the steam. Then, pin the pieces to the desired shape and measurements and leave to set.



At a loose end?

Follow these steps for sewing in any loose ends:
 1 Thread the yarn onto a tapestry needle and work with the WS of the knit facing upwards.
 2 Insert the needle under the loop of each stitch, and draw it through, weave it up and down into loops of the stitches for 6cm.
 3 Cut the yarn close to the fabric.
 4 If you are working at a colour change, be sure to work one loop in and into the corresponding colour to prevent it from being visible at the front of the work.



Beginning a seam



1 With the pieces to be joined placed next to each other with right side upwards, thread the tapestry needle and push it through the fabric after the first stitch, moving the needle from front to back. Then, take the needle and push it through after the first stitch on the second piece, moving the needle from the back of the work to the front. The yarn will form a figure 8. Tug gently to secure.

Back stitch



1 Pin the pieces to be joined, with the right sides together. Thread the loose end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. Start by stitching the two outer edges together, then bring the needle through the two pieces 1cm from back to front ahead of the previous stitch.

2 Push the needle back through at the position where the yarn emerged from the previous stitch. Return it to the front of the work, approx 1cm ahead of the stitch just made. Repeat this until the whole join is complete, working in a straight line.

Mattress stitch

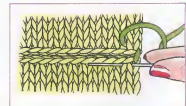


1 With the two pieces to be joined lying next to each other, hook the horizontal bar of the first stitch with the tapestry needle. Move to the other piece and hook the first horizontal bar of the stitch on that side.
 2 Repeat this moving from one piece to the next and pulling the yarn to tighten the join.

Joining cast off edges



1 Lay the two pieces to be joined right side up and with the cast off edges touching. Thread a tapestry needle with the loose yarn and push this through the centre of the first stitch, and then in and out through the centres of two stitches on the opposite side.



2 Take the needle over to the first side and insert where it previously exited, bringing it out ahead of the centre of the next stitch. Repeat this process alternating sides and stitching single stitches until the pieces are joined.

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